ATHLETICS 46

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

THE TOP 100 WINTER WINES

Part 1: Wines under £3.50

MAGAZINE

STYLE

Natasha Caine models sharp-edged suits

Mortgage rates may go up again

Interest rise hits shares and boosts £

By Alasdair Murray, Philip Webster and Gavin Lumsden

INTEREST rates rose for the fifth time since the general election to their highest level for five years yesterday, raising fears of higher mortgages early in the new year.

The Bank of England's decision to increase base rates by a quarter point to 7.25 per cent only days after the stock market suffered a severe collapse stunned the City and was immediately condemned by businesses and leading politicians.

The Tories slammed it as a "punch in the guts" for borrowers. Homeowners now face an anxious wait while mortgage lenders decide whether to follow the Bank's lead and push up rates soon.

Most big lenders said they would review their rates although the Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley — the two largest remaining building societies — pledged not to increase their mortgage rates before the new year.

The rate increase sent the pound soaring on the foreign exchanges, heightening industry fears that exports will suffer. The pound closed up over two pfennigs against the mark while hitting a five-year high against the yen.

The troubled stock market slipped again, with the FTSE 100 down 44.5 points at 4863.80.

It was the fourth time the Bank had upped rates since it was given operational freedom by Gordon Brown; those increases came on top of the 0.25 per cent rise implemented by the Chancellor immediately after the May election.

A wave of senior Conservatives attacked the decision as an assault on business. The Government, however, declined to comment and the issue was not even discussed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

David Heathcoat-Amory, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "This shock rise is a fifth punch in the guts for British businesses and homeowners."

He said the Government "cannot shuffle the blame off on to the Bank of England" because Mr Brown had relaxed the inflation target and then delivered a Budget in July which itself added to inflation.

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, said the Bank had got it wrong. "I disagree with the Bank's policy decision. I do not think that there's sufficient evidence of inflationary pressures in the economy to justify this rise. I would have preferred they had left rates where they are."

The Bank's monetary policy committee said that it had considered the "impact of recent financial market volatility". However, the committee concluded that with the economy continuing to grow at an "unsustainable rate" and skills shortages hitting the labour market, a "modest further increase in rates" was necessary to meet the Government's inflation target.

Leading economists warned, however, that the latest increase could push the economy over the edge next year. Garry Young, chief UK economist at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, said: "We believe that policy is already tight enough to achieve the Government's inflation target. Today's rise increases the chance of recession next year."

Businesses were also highly critical of the move, warning that it was likely to boost the value of the pound and hurt British exports.

Kate Barker, chief economist at the Confederation of British Industry, described the rise as regrettable at a time when "exporters are struggling to retain markets on poor margins due to the strength of the pound".

Only the Institute of Directors broke ranks to offer support for the Bank. Ruth Lea, head of policy at the IoD, said: "There are other aspects to the economy and above all what our members want is stability and low inflation and they will support this decision for that reason."

The rise in rates also took mortgage lenders by surprise. The Halifax, the country's largest mortgage lender with 2.5 million borrowers, only completed a major revamp of its entire range of home loans on Wednesday. The Abbey National, Northern Rock, Bradford & Bingley and Birmingham Midshires have all recently launched new products too.

Most lenders are expected to reflect the rate change soon. This will add £10 to the monthly payments of homeowners with standard variable mortgages of £60,000.

The Lord Chancellor in his traditional garb

Continental style: Italian judge Antonio Lepore

I should look like him, says Irvine

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor wants to sweep away the ancient trappings of his office by scrapping the traditional 17th-century costume of wig and tights and calling his ministry a Justice Department.

Lord Irvine of Lairg is in favour of doing away with his full-bottomed wig, breeches and buckled shoes in favour of a European-style simple gown as part of moves to modernise the House of Lords.

In remarks which will reignite debate over costume in the legal profession, Lord Irvine says wigs project an image of the Bar and judiciary which is "old-fashioned, out of touch and self-satisfied".

Giving his first comprehensive interview since taking office, Lord Irvine also unofficially renamed his department, continental-style, as the Justice Department — a move bound to cause a stir among some Cabinet colleagues, although he strongly denies any kind of takeover bid.

Lord Irvine does not plan to dictate on matters of dress to the Bar or judges. But his views, which accord with

Continued on page 2, col 2

Tackling fat cats, page 21

BBC drops programme on 'framed' Saudi nurses

By Michael Theodoulou and Daniel McGrory

A BBC documentary alleging that the two British nurses tried for murder in Saudi Arabia were framed has been dropped after pressure from the Foreign Office and their families.

Diplomats fear that it will jeopardise secret moves by the Saudi courts to cut the jail sentences of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan to four years.

Defence lawyers were anxious last night not to threaten a deal to waive the expected death penalty on Parry, from Alton in Hampshire, and cut the 500 lashes and eight-year sentence passed on McLauchlan, from Dundee.

The nurses, who have been in the Damman women's prison for 11 months, have not officially been told about this deal but know about the television broadcast that includes their accounts of Yvonne Gilford's murder last December.

The *Panorama* programme claims that Saudi police planted evidence on the pair and there is a detailed reconstruction allegedly proving that they could not have killed the Australian staff nurse.

The Foreign Office is anxious to avoid the rift that followed the *Death of a Princess* documentary in 1980 and together with relatives persuaded the BBC not to show the programme last month.

BBC sources say senior executives were divided about whether to bow to diplomatic pressure and endanger the nurses' possible legal fate. One said: "Diplomats like to stress the BBC are seen in Riyadh as the voice of the British establishment so if we criticise the Saudi juidicial system it could backfire on the nurses."

A spokesman for *Panorama* said last night: "The programme is one of many ideas. It is in production but there are not any plans for transmission."

Both families are also understood to have asked the BBC not to transmit the programme until the nurses' legal ordeal is exhausted.

Salah al Hejailan, the Saudi lawyer leading the defence team, said last night: "Things are looking very good for them. There is a likelihood they can serve their sentences in England once the appeal process is exhausted and I am confident that under any circumstances neither will serve more than four years and most likely less."

The delay in sentencing Parry is because the victim's brother, Frank Gilford, has yet to agree finally the blood money deal to waive the death penalty. To force his hand the nurses this week let their lawyers release the £700,000 "blood money" paid by British firms in Saudi Arabia.

The deal calls on him to press the Saudi authorities to disclose all the evidence in the murder investigation case. He must also challenge the prosecution's case that the murder resulted from a failed lesbian relationship between the three women.

The BBC documentary dismisses accusations by Saudi investigators that Miss Gilford was killed after a lesbian affair with Parry.

It is also believed to accuse Saudi police of planting a bank cheque card, stolen from Yvonne Gilford's room, in McLauchlan's handbag. The programme reconstructs harrowing confessions extracted from the women by sexual threats and assault.

IRA weapons chief resigns

The IRA's "quartermaster-general" has split from the terrorist organisation's hierarchy in protest over the protracted peace negotiations.

This senior member is one of about a dozen top activists who have quit the Provisional IRA ....Page 2

Leading article, page 23

BSE blunder

The Belgian Government was embarrassed yesterday when it emerged that the country's first cow to succumb to BSE had mistakenly been turned into animal feed which was sold abroad..............Page 16

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US retreats from 'last resort' against Iraq

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

THE United States last night backed away from a military strike against Iraq despite strong evidence that President Saddam Hussein was hiding sensitive weapon-making equipment from a United Nations inspection team and even tampering with its surveillance cameras.

William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, had earlier in the week issued a warning of severe consequences should Iraq attack US reconnaissance aircraft. But yesterday he said that a military option against Saddam should be considered only as a last resort.

In the most tangible sign that America had blinked first in the Washington-Baghdad deadlock, and was unprepared to take action without Western alliance backing, Mr Cohen said a military response would undermine its policy of seeking Iraqi compliance with UN sanctions.

Saddam, he said, was deliberately trying to create a dispute with America, so preventing any UN inspections of facilities that may be producing biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.

His words came less than a day after Richard Butler, the Australian diplomat heading the UN special commission to eliminate Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, reported that equipment used to make such weapons was being hidden from surveillance cameras. He added that camera lenses had been covered and lighting turned off.

Although Mr Cohen said that he had no reason to doubt Mr Butler's letter, sent to the UN Security Council, the Pentagon had no immediate wish to retaliate. "Saddam is trying to make this an Iraq versus US dispute and say that the UN has no interest in what is going on in his country," Mr Cohen said. "That policy should not succeed and hopefully will not succeed."

Both Al Gore, the Vice-President, and Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, said America was prepared to make the Iraqi leader comply fully with the international community's will.

The special commission's searches have been at a standstill for a week because of its refusal to accept an order by Saddam's Government that seven American team members leave Iraq.

Equipment hidden, page 17

Hamilton v Bell – the second leg

Political Sketch

Matthew Parris

CHRISTINE HAMILTON wore a scarlet jacket with wide white collars. She has lost weight. She looked elegant, if tense and rather pale. Under a huge, striped golfing umbrella she was sheltering herself outside the St Stephen's entrance to the Commons, leaving a small space under the canopy for her husband, Neil. His hands shook with nerves.

Ten yards away, separated by a crash barrier from a horde of newsmen, was Martin Bell, the independent MP for Tatton who ousted Hamilton last May. The Hamiltons loitered in the drizzle. Christine was indignant.

"Go on, dear, put him on the spot."

"How do you mean?"

"Oh go on, dear: just go."

"D'you think I should."

"If you don't go, I will, and you know what I'll say."

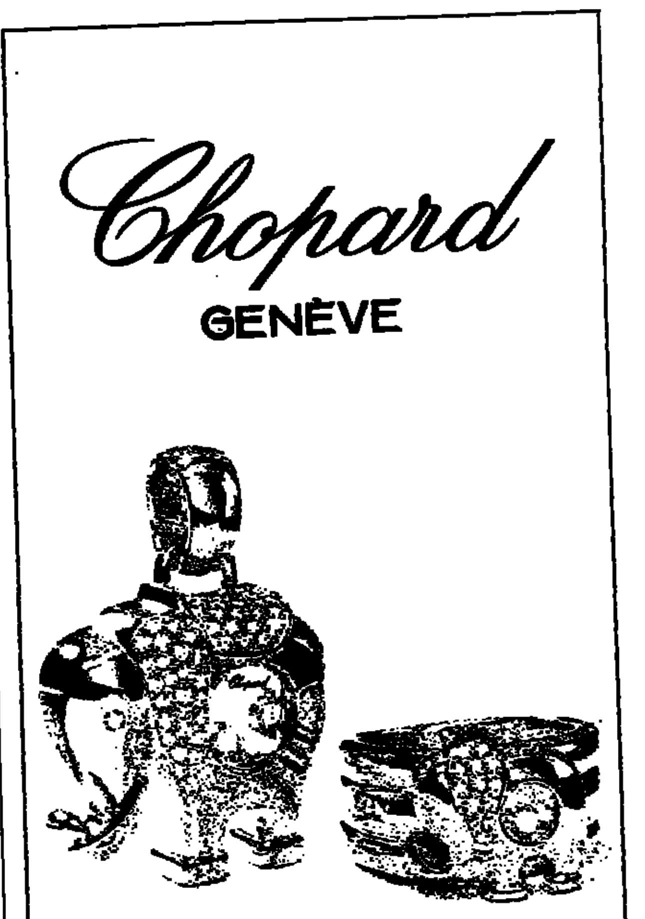
"Well . . ."

But Mrs Hamilton made the decision for him, stepping half a pace away and withdrawing the shelter of her umbrella. Like a small bird prodded from the nest by its mother, he must now fly. Without her. "If *I* go anywhere near that man I shall just explode," she hissed.

Neil Hamilton hovered over to the scrum, and stood hesitantly behind it, hanging back. In the end it was the photographers who pushed him forward to "encounter" Martin Bell; but neither had much to say to the other.

Half an hour before, Neil Hamilton had called his own press conference in the Jubilee Room at Westminster. The event turned into something of

Continued on page 2, col4



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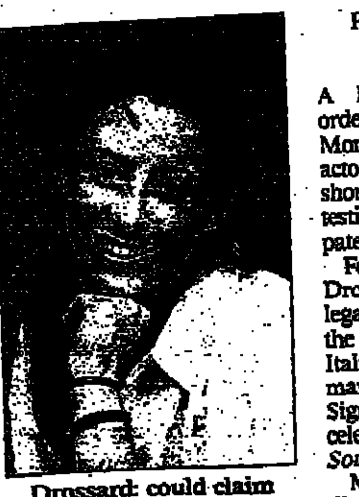
Paternity suit exhumation for Yves Montand



Drossard: could claim part of actor's estate

From Ben Macintyre
in Paris

A PARIS court yesterday ordered that the body of Yves Montand, the French film actor who died six years ago, should be dug up for DNA testing to settle a long-running paternity dispute.

For eight years Aurore Drossard, 22, has fought a legal battle to be recognised as the daughter of Montand, the Italian-born actor who was married to actress Simone Signoret and starred in such celebrated films as *Manon des Sources* and *Jean de Florette*.

Mlle Drossard's claims are disputed by Montand's heirs and after years of legal wrangling the Court of Appeal ruled that the only way to decide the issue once and for all would be to exhume the actor and compare his DNA with that of the claimant.

Montand was still alive when Mlle Drossard and her mother Anne Fleurange, who began a two-year relationship with the actor in 1973 when she was 19, first filed a paternity suit in 1989. The actor denied paternity and flatly ignored court orders to submit to blood tests.

The legal battle heated up after his death in 1991, at the age of 70, and three years later the Paris Tribunal ruled in Mlle Drossard's favour, on the basis of witness testimony and her striking physical resemblance to Montand.

If her claim is proven, Mlle Drossard is expected to claim part of Montand's sizeable fortune, but she insists financial considerations are secondary.

Montand's current heirs are his son Valentin by Carole Amiel, his last companion, and Catherine Allégret, the daughter of Simone Signoret, whom he adopted in 1988.

The Montand estate includes a house in Normandy, an apartment on the Boulevard Saint Germain in Paris and royalties to his songs.

Montand: ignored court orders for blood tests

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Weapons man quits IRA over peace talks

By Martin Fletcher and Michael Evans

THE IRA's "quartermaster-general", who has control over huge stocks of Semtex explosive and Kalashnikov guns, has split from the terrorist organisation's hierarchy in protest over the protracted peace negotiations.

This senior member is one of about a dozen top activists who have quit the Provisional IRA in a rift over the ceasefire that security sources last night labelled "the first crack in the dam". Another significant dissenter is a former chief of staff who has resigned as a member of the seven-man Provisional IRA army council, the principal decision-making body, according to security officials.

Although the security authorities are at present reasonably confident that the key figures who have left the terrorist organisation are not about to form a rival republican terrorist group, the confirmation of the split has underlined the increasing disillusion within sections of the IRA over the talks.

However, security sources said that Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, the two principal Sinn Fein leaders, still remained in control of the republican policy and that the split involving a number of "significant players" did not pose an immediate threat to the peace process. The resignations followed a stormy summit attended by about 50 leading activists in the west Donegal town of Gweedore last month. Although the leadership carried the day, a sizeable minority questioned what the ceasefire had achieved and warned of trouble if the talks did not "produce the goods".

There was considerable unhappiness at Sinn Fein's adoption of the Mitchell principles, which include a commitment to total paramilitary disarmament. They are also understood to have expressed alarm over the possibility of a settlement that "copper-fastened" partition.

The quartermaster general as well as his girlfriend, both well-known hardliners, were forced off the IRA's 12-member army excutive, which elects the seven members of the PIRA army council.

It is understood that the man who was the IRA's long-serving chief of staff until December last year — a "hawk" who lives in County Monaghan — resigned from the army council voluntarily.

Security officials said the fact that activists had left "on their feet", suggested they had been allowed to resign honourably and intended to become inactive instead of joining a rival group. One security source said it was clear that the IRA leaders would not have agreed to remove the quartermaster-general unless they were satisfied he was not going to form a breakaway group and make use of the concealed dumps of weapons and explosives. Traditionally, he is the only republican figure with the full knowledge of their whereabouts. Under the IRA's constitution, defections and the transfer of weapons to rival organisations are punishable by death.

The split in the IRA ranks is probably the most serious disagreement within the republican movement since 1986 when a group led by Ruairi O'Bradaigh broke away from the Provisional IRA to form the Republican Sinn Fein.

Officials said it was possible the dissidents could take a number of "foot soldiers" with them but believe there is no immediate threat to the ceasefire. There is, however, concern that this situation could change if the peace talks do not yield dividends in the coming months. About a third of the IRA's estimated 400 active members are thought to be unhappy with Sinn Fein's participation in the talks.

Leading article, page 23

SIMON WALKER

Christine Hamilton sheltering outside the Commons yesterday: her husband said that they would fight on

Hamilton's media circus

Continued from page 1

a circus in which poor Hamilton played the role both of ringmaster and clown. The room was full. Journalists attending Hamilton press conferences these days go in the faintly ghoulish mood of those who flock to road accidents.

Silence (while we waited to be live on BBC Radio 5) was broken by a dispute between press photographers and a TV cameraman whose lights spoilt their capture of the moment.

Silence fell again. Hamilton called for a glass of water. Was this a last request, or would he now ask for a cigarette — or even a priest?

Then Hamilton spoke, launching into an angry and at times disjointed rant against his critics and inquisitors. Mohamed Al Fayed had lied, he claimed. The Select Committee on Standards and Privileges had slipped up. Sir Gordon Downey (the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards) was slovenly and unjust.

He had been tried by a Court of Star Chamber, he went on. This was the "hoax of the century". Fayed was "a modern Titus Oates". He and Christine would fight on.

All the while, Hamilton's hands were shaking. His voice shook, too, as he lost his place in his notes. He is plainly under intense strain. You could say he sounded dotty. He was certainly obsessive, and anyone with experience in public life knows the symptoms. Had Hamilton's case been conveyed by letter it would have been in green ink, with a copy sent to the Queen.

But anyone with experience in public life also knows the shudder as you brush away some dotty-sounding plea. Might there be something in it? A huge grievance does turn sane people dotty.

When once I asked David Mellor why he had never challenged the fabrications about his "Chelsea strip", he replied, "Who's interested in a verdict of only two-thirds guilty?" In essence that is what Hamilton was asking for — and nobody was interested. Few if any in the Jubilee Room yesterday gained the impression he had been blameless. Some of us, however, left feeling vaguely uneasy about the process by which he had been blamed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministers tighten railway regulation

Ministers moved yesterday to take closer control of railway regulation in an effort to increase passengers' rights. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, published a series of guidelines to the industry's regulators, making clear that he would expect closer coordination in future.

However, Mr Strang admitted that the Government would not be able to make big changes to the regulatory system until it introduces new legislation, which will take at least a year. The ultimate aim is a strategic rail authority.

Leading article, page 23

Rape case won

John Ellison, 28, of Crook, Durham, a former Scots Guardsman who was falsely convicted and jailed for rape, won a High Court damages claim against the Ministry of Defence for malicious prosecution and negligence. The amount will be decided today.

Safety failures

Eleven meat-processing plants failed in October to meet all the controls put in place to stop the spread of BSE-infected materials. The figures, covering nearly 700 premises, are the highest for several months, but inspectors said the infringements were minor.

Verdict stands

A fresh review by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, of the RAF Chinook helicopter crash which killed 25 senior anti-terrorist intelligence officers in 1994 has confirmed the original judgment that the pilots were grossly negligent.

Clocking on

An attempt by Warner Holidays to silence the night-time chimes of a village church so its hotel guests could have an undisturbed night's sleep has failed after villagers in Nidd, North Yorkshire, voted 47 to 28 in favour of retaining the bells.

Mir bagatelle

Cosmonauts on Mir have boldly shopped where no one has shopped before, using the Internet to e-mail an American shopping service and order sweatshirts, a Barbie doll and even a computer as Christmas presents for their loved ones back on Earth.

Au pair appeal

Players from Liverpool, Everton and Aston Villa football clubs have donated signed kit and footballs to be auctioned for the defence campaign of Louise Woodward, 19, the British au pair jailed in the US for murdering a child in her care.

Chess move

Oakham School in Rutland has become the first in the country to have a full-time chess teacher. Each year Garry Kasparov, the world champion who visited Oakham yesterday, will select a young player to receive a free education at the private school.

Tomorrow in THE TIMES
MAGAZINE
THINKING WOMAN'S BUDDHIST
RICHARD GERE: PICTURES FROM TIBET
Battle of the London Mayors
WEEKEND

LACOSTE

Irvine

Continued from page 1

those of the present Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, could nonetheless be a first step towards a continental-style legal dress, a simple black gown, in British courts.

As Speaker of the House of the Lords, Lord Irvine takes exception to the "ludicrous silk tights which I have to wear every day, despite having got the business of pulling them on to down to a fine art".

The Lord Chancellor, who is leading the Government's programme of constitutional reform, believes that his own costume should be modernized as part of plans to reform the House of Lords.

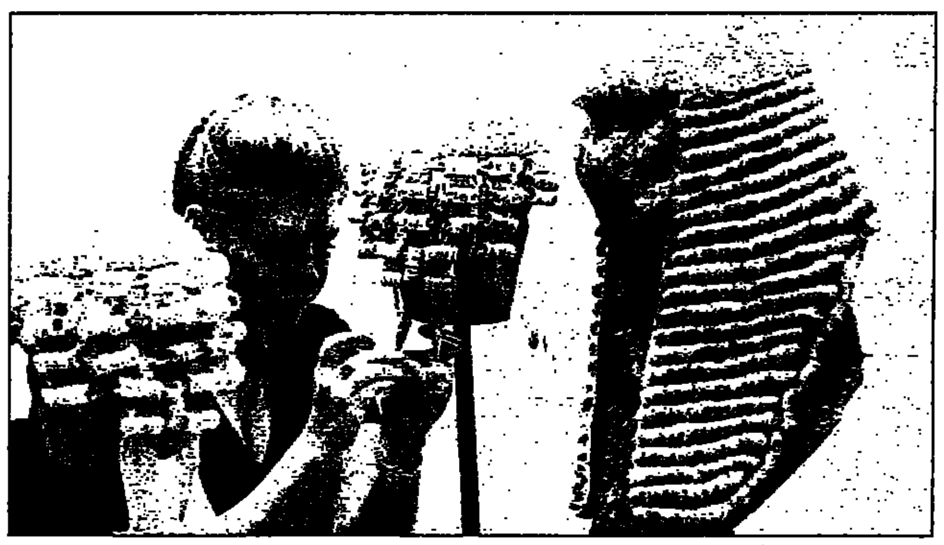
He also wants rid of the "hat-doffing" exercise, for which he wears his tricorn hat ("it makes modern Lord Chancellors look rather raffish and reminiscent of pirates of old").

Wigs, he added, made the general public think of barristers as "an antique lot".

However, Lord Irvine does not object to the wearing of full ceremonial dress on state occasions, when "it may be entirely appropriate for the Lord Chancellor to be in his full traditional dress." But as daily working clothes, his outfit is "scarcely acceptable."

In the interviewhe strongly rejects calls by the media for steps to protect the press against a rash of "gagging orders" when privacy laws are created by judges enforcing the new Human Rights Bill.

Any request for special protection to limit judges' use of the European Convention's article eight, which protects the right to privacy, was "exorbitant" and would be thought by the "overwhelming majority of people" to be excessive. But he said the media's "doom and gloom" was utterly misplaced.



Clare Cattle, trainee wig-maker at Ede and Ravenscroft

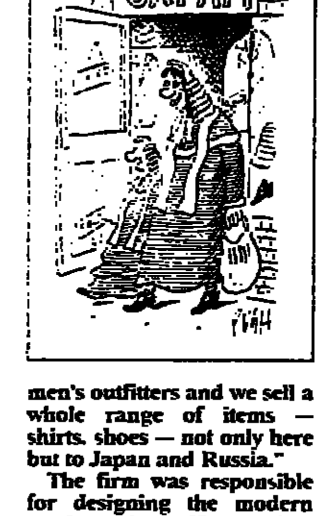
Wig-makers to the law argue case for defence

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE proposal by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, to dispense with judicial wigs would end part of British history, says the London firm that has supplied them since 1689.

Ede and Ravenscroft of Chancery Lane, "robemakers and tailors" since the reign of William and Mary, sells several hundred handmade, horsehair wigs a year, ranging from the everyday short wig to the full-bottomed version.

Gill Godfrey, marketing manager, said: "We would be very disappointed if the legal profession gave up wearing wigs because it is part of history." But the firm was a "diverse business" and wig-making was only one aspect of its work: "We are gentlemen's outfitters and we sell a whole range of items — shirts, shoes — not only here but to Japan and Russia."



The firm was responsible for designing the modern version. Ms Godfrey said. A century ago, wigs had to be powdered and curled. A standard short barrister's wig costs about £400. Recently the firm introduced a £150 deposit for the rental of a standard wig after a spate of thefts from the Inns of Court.

The standard wig, known as the Bar wig, was devised by Humphrey Ravenscroft in 1822. It has a "frizzed crown, below which are four rows of seven curls, then one row of four curls with one curl vertically between them, and two tails, looped and tied".

By contrast the full-bottomed wig, worn on ceremonial occasions and by the Lord Chancellor for all his official duties, has "horizontal rows of fixed curls, which fall from the crown of head, over the ears and on to the shoulders". A judge's everyday wig is "frizzed all over with no curls" and "two small ties of horsehair at the back".

Tributes as Isaiah Berlin dies at age of 88

By David Charter

SIR ISAIAH BERLIN, variously known as the wisest, wittiest and fastest-talking of the century's historians and philosophers, died yesterday from a heart attack, aged 88.

The Latvian-born academic secured a double first at Oxford and went on to become Churchill's personal wartime envoy in Washington. The academic career which followed as a fellow of All Souls, Oxford, took him around the globe and led to the presidency of the British Academy and the Order of Merit.

Sir Isaiah demonstrated his mesmeric linguistic talents — he was once timed once at nearly 400 words a minute — on platforms as varied as the White House, in a lecture as a guest of President Kennedy, and *Desert Island Discs*.

Academics were divided yesterday about the extent of his academic legacy. Michael Ignatieff, who worked closely with him on a biography to be published next year, said: "We have lost a very considerable figure. He was probably the most influential liberal philosopher of his generation."

Mr Ignatieff said Sir Isaiah would be remembered as one of the great interpreters of Russian culture to the English-speaking world: "He saw the Russian Revolution with his own eyes, he talked to Boris Pasternak in Moscow in 1945, then came back and wrote his influential liberal philosophy."

Roger Scruton, the philosopher, credited him with establishing the history of ideas as a university discipline, but took issue with the "moral pluralism" of his world view which refused, he said, to define fundamental values: "He has written some marvellous essays on Russian literature, but I think his philosophical contributions are in comparison somewhat thin."

Vernon Bogdanor, professor of government at Oxford, was in no doubt that Sir Isaiah had made an enduring contribution: "His defence of a liberal society is a permanent contribution to human thought. He thought that liberalism should not seek to impose a particular pattern of life upon people. He was a great human being as well as a great thinker."

Dr Colin Lucas, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, said: "We are very sad to lose such an eminent scholar, who made such an enormous contribution to philosophy and to the values for which we stand." A private funeral service is expected to take place today.

Rosemary Righter, page 22
Obituary, page 25

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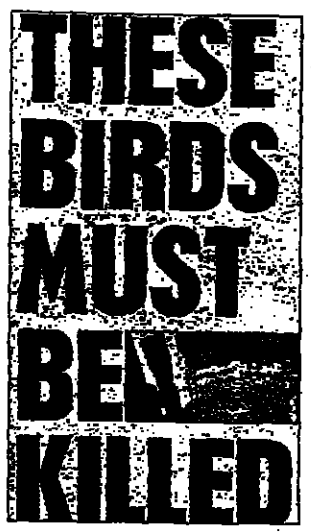
Editor cleared of encouraging readers to kill

BY JOANNA BALE


THESE BIRDS MUST BE KILLED

Front-page message in the *Angling Times*

THE former editor of an angling newspaper was cleared yesterday of encouraging his readers to kill protected birds.

Keith Higginbottom had faced two charges of incitement under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act after the front page of the *Angling Times* launched a campaign against cormorants with the banner headline: "These birds must be killed." A photograph showed a masked man with a gun standing over four dead cormorants with the caption: "This is the picture everyone wants to see."

Mr Higginbottom went on trial at Peterborough Magistrates' Court yesterday after denying both charges, relating to the December 4, 1996, issue of the leading angling newspaper.

Magistrates decided there was no case to answer, and after the hearing the new *Angling Times* editor branded the prosecution a waste of public money. John Kelly said: "We are delighted with the decision, but the decision to bring the case at all has to be questioned as it was a serious challenge to journalistic independence and free speech."

Mr Kelly added that his newspaper's campaign against cormorants would continue. He said: "This campaign was professionally launched and has succeeded in raising huge national awareness of the threat to fisheries. The *Angling Times* believes there should be a change to the law."

The court had heard recordings of police interviews with Mr Higginbottom in which he was asked if he had intended to incite readers to kill the birds. He replied: "If we wanted to get people to go out and shoot birds we would have said 'go out and shoot birds'."

Gareth Hawkesworth, for the defence, urged the magistrates to rule there was no case to answer. He said: "The prosecution has to prove beyond reasonable doubt that an editor of many years' experience intended to encourage people actually to break the criminal law.

"It must be proved that the defendant knew of or deliberately closed his eyes to the Act. A free press is entitled to criticise the law and one of the ways of doing it is to demonstrate how the law has fallen into disrepute."

Mr Hawkesworth likened the issue to the debate over the legalisation of cannabis.

"There have been endless articles in the press and magazines which point out how it is used, smoked and grown and explain that some research says it is no more harmful than alcohol. These are not prosecuted for incitement for the simple reason that it's a serious debate."

Sylvia Cundell, for the prosecution, said that in the edition of the Emap-owned paper launching the campaign against cormorants, there were also descriptions of various ways of killing the birds, including the use of poison and baited lines and hooks.

Mrs Cundell said: "It contains very emotional language with reference to cormorants and at least four pictorial depictions of dead ones.

"It contains the information about the type of gun and rifle effective in killing cormorants. It contains information about the type of pill and dosage effective to kill cormorants.

"It contains the type of fishing techniques that can be used to drown them. There is nothing in it to indicate that any lawful campaign was being started by the *Angling Times*."

Mr Hawkesworth's arguments were accepted by the magistrates after one and a half hours' deliberation. Mr Higginbottom, who left the newspaper last May, left court to celebrate with a bottle of champagne.

Cormorants are protected by law but are disliked by anglers who claim they have decimated fish stocks

PAUL VICENTE

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, with her grandson the Duke of York, at the annual Field of Remembrance Service outside Westminster Abbey yesterday

Teenager who strangled his grandmother gets ten years

BY EMMA WILKINS

A TEENAGER who strangled his grandmother when she caught him stealing her savings to feed his drug habit was jailed for ten years yesterday. Luke Hamilton, 18, was arrested only after his parents challenged a post-mortem examination which said that his victim had died of a heart attack.

Yesterday Verna Hamilton, a hospital clerk, watched with tears in her eyes as her son was led away to the cells for the manslaughter of her mother. The family said they were devastated by the case.

The teenager has already been attacked by prison inmates while being held on remand, and is now being kept segregated at his own request. Chelmsford Crown Court was told that he had been taking drugs including cannabis, amphetamines, LSD and Ecstasy since the age of 14.

His grandmother, Daphne Cole, 83, was found dead at her bungalow in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, in January. A neighbour had noticed that the sitting-room lights were still on at 10am on a Sunday. Mrs Hamilton's husband, Terry, a brewery worker, found his mother-in-law lying in the hall, and noticed a red line around her throat. Outside, he found a cigarette butt in a gap between slabs of the garden path.

Police initially decided that nothing had been disturbed or stolen. However, the Hamiltons became suspicious when they could not find any trace of the £220 pension that Mrs Cole had collected from a Post Office the day before her death, or her savings which she had been putting aside to have her front door double-glazed. They held a family conference ten days after her death, and asked police for a second post-mortem examination.

David Harrison, a Home Office pathologist, found that she had suffered two fractured bones in her neck and died of manual strangulation. There were bruises on her jaw, scalp and left shoulder, and bleeding under her eyes.

Hamilton: attacked by prison inmates

When Suffolk police began a murder inquiry, Mrs Hamilton appealed at a press conference for help in finding her mother's killer. Following their son's arrest, Mr and Mrs Hamilton had supported his alibi that he was at the family home in Bury St Edmunds at the time of the killing.

At first, Hamilton told police that he had not seen his grandmother for six weeks and had been at a driving lesson on the day of her death. However, DNA in saliva found on the butt matched Hamilton's genetic fingerprint. He later told police that he thought he had strangled his grandmother while in a dream-like state after taking amphetamines, and had imagined he was being chased by werewolves.

Hamilton, of Bury St Edmunds, was convicted of manslaughter and the theft of £315, but cleared of murder. Afterwards, his parents and twin sister Sarah said they were devastated. Kevin McCarthy, Hamilton's solicitor, said: "They are distraught. They would like to thank all those who have supported them."

Tackle to cost man his home

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A RUGBY player may have to sell his house after he was successfully sued over a high tackle in which his opponent suffered a broken jaw and lost several front teeth.

Peter Thaler, 42, of Fryston, West Yorkshire, who faces a legal bill of £20,500 after the judgment, put up his house as a surety for the legal costs.

Mr Thaler, a miner, was playing for Fryston Amateur Rugby League Football Club in a Yorkshire Cup match against Shawcross, near Dewsbury, in 1994 when he mistimed his tackle and hit Glenn Riddle with his elbow.

Mr Riddle accused Mr Thaler of assualt and, when he was cleared by Dewsbury magistrates, then sued for damages in the civil court and won, leaving Mr Thaler to pay £4,500 in compensation and £16,000 in legal costs.

Police link gang to 30 attacks on the wealthy

BY STEWART TENDLER AND ADAM FRESCO

A GANG of burglars who handcuffed the three-year-old daughter of a City businessman to a banister during a robbery face questioning about another 30 attacks on the homes of the wealthy.

Detectives believe the six-man gang has taken cash and jewellery worth up to £4 million in raids on homes across the Home Counties.

The raids include an attack on the home of Lord McGowan, a stockbroker, and his wife at Alton, Hampshire, in October last year, and the theft of cash and jewellery from the Surrey home of Spiro Metaxas, a Greek businessman, in August last year.

Yesterday Peter Champion, 28 from Merseyside, and Shaun Shinkwin, 34, from Watford, who trained for the British boxing Olympic squad, were found guilty at Woolwich Crown Court of aggravated robbery. Paul Clarke, 27, from Merseyside, Stephen Lewtas, 37, from Merseyside, and Ronald Shinkwin, 32, from Hertfordshire, all admitted robbery at an earlier hearing. Graham Barker, 22, from Merseyside, the driver of the getaway car, admitted aggravated burglary. The six will be sentenced at a later date.

They were caught after an attack in February last year on the home of Stephen Burke, 38, who runs a City recruitment agency with his wife Deborah, 40. The gang, armed with a mallet and a knife, burst into their home at Radlett, Hertfordshire, as the couple were about to put their daughter Georgina to bed. The raiders stole cash, jewellery and vintage champagne. A masked man pushed Mrs Burke into her kitchen and ignoring her daughter's screams ripped her £3,000 Rolex watch from her wrist. Her husband's £12,000 Swiss watch was also taken.

One of the raiders threatened Mrs Burke with a hammer and told her that if she did not tell them where the safe was her husband would be murdered and her daughter abducted. Mr Burke had been left handcuffed to the banisters. His wife was handcuffed as well and cuffs were put round her daughter's ankle because her wrist was too small. Nearly nine months after the raid Georgina is still haunted by the experience.

Within moments of the gang leaving, police burst in freed the family. The gang had been under surveillance for two months, but that night police had temporarily lost contact.

X-rays prove black hole theory

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A BIZARRE distortion of space and time predicted by Einstein's theory of relativity has been proved after nearly 80 years. Observations from a satellite launched in 1995 have shown that rotating black holes drag space and time around with them as they spin, like a tornado picking up debris in its path.

Two teams reported the discovery of "frame-dragging", as the process is called, at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Estes Park, Colorado, yesterday. The results are a further confirmation that Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, published in 1915, makes accurate predictions about how nature behaves.

According to the theory all rotating bodies generate a new kind of gravitational force, the gravitomagnetic force, by virtue of their rotation.

Detecting the effect for bodies such as the Earth, which is neither very massive nor rotates very fast, is difficult. Black holes or neutron stars pack a huge amount of mass into a comparatively tiny space and rotate very fast, making them the perfect places to look for frame-dragging.

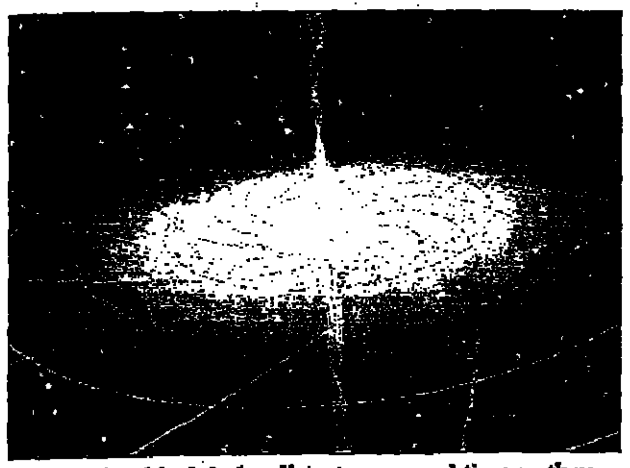
At yesterday's meeting, an Italian team reported success after looking at neutron stars, while an American team confirmed it by looking at black holes. Both used instruments on board the Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer (RXTE), a satellite launched by the US space agency Nasa.

Luigi Stella of the Astronomical Observatory in Rome and Mario Vietri of the Third University of Rome examined X-ray signals from 15 neutron stars rotating at about 300 rpm, around which matter is whirling at 1,000 rpm. This means the matter is travelling at 100,000 kilometres per second, a third the speed of light.

According to the theory, the matter should undergo a slow precession, or wobble, similar to that of a spinning top about to fall over. They looked for a variation in the X-ray signals at the predicted frequency of between 10 and 30 times a second, and found it on three of the stars.

A team from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, led by Wei Cui, also believes it has shown the effect, after studying X-ray emissions from black holes. They, too, found a characteristic wobble of the right frequency.

There remains a possibility that the signals may be caused by some other effect, so alternative methods are needed to confirm that frame-dragging is real. A satellite called Gravity Probe-B, to be launched by Nasa in 1999, should be able to do it.



Spinning black holes distort space and time as they whip matter around at enormous speeds, scientists say

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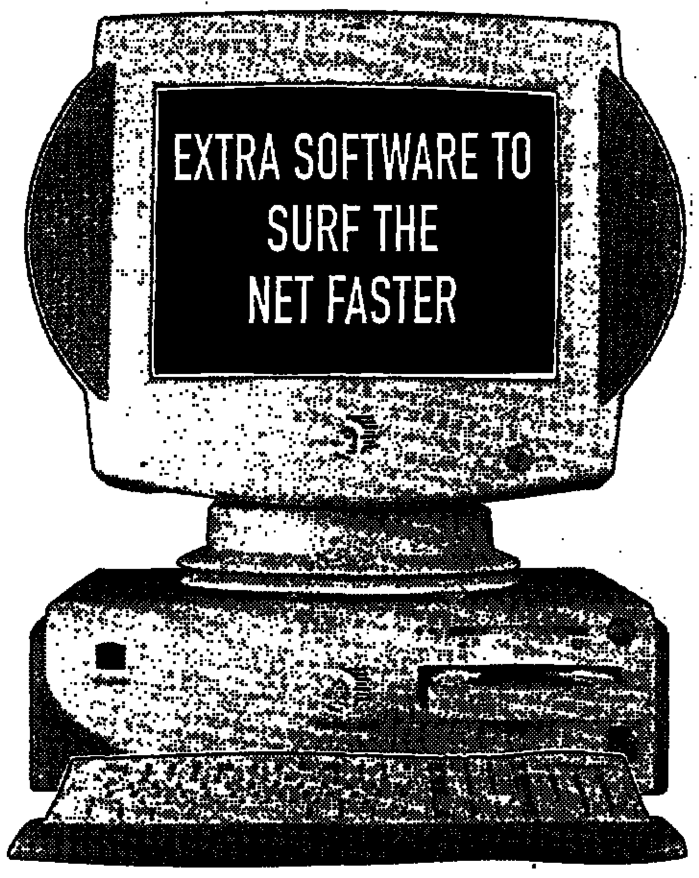

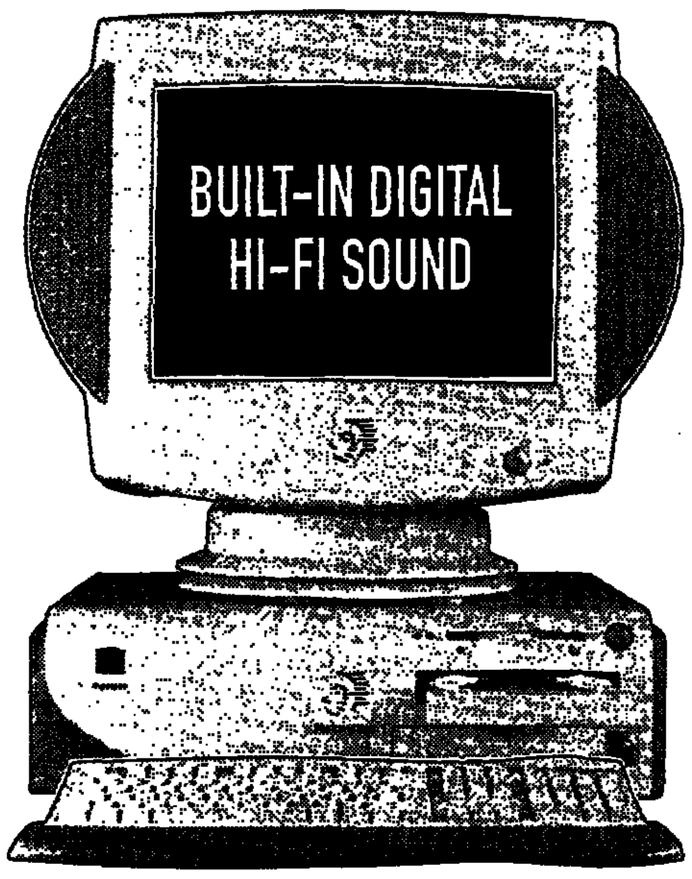

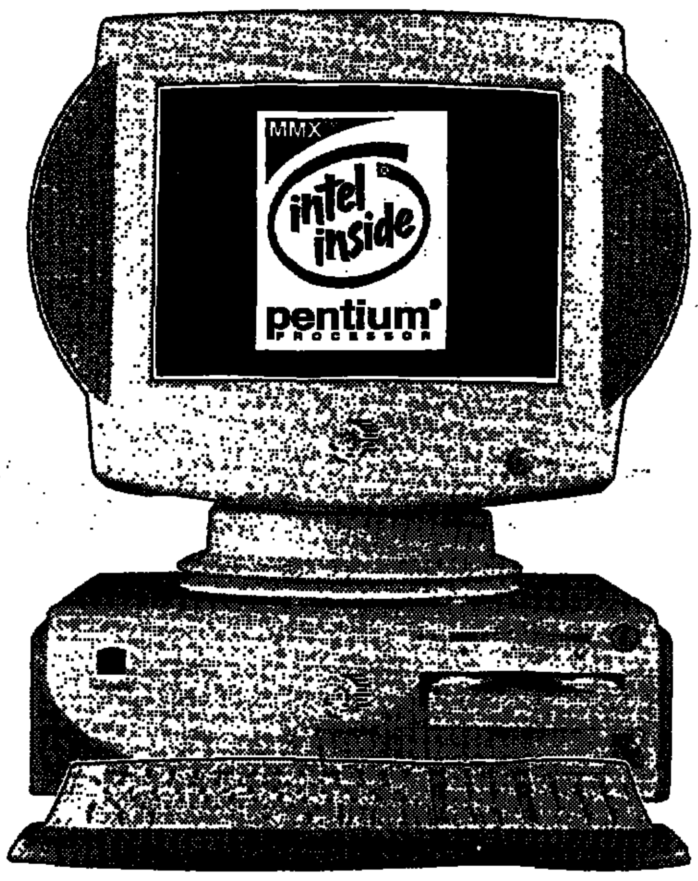

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Police discover Russian tanks in Liverpool

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

CHILDREN were found playing with live shells in Liverpool yesterday. A police investigation led to a warehouse filled with 20 rusting Russian-built tanks.

The 5½in shells came from inside the T-55 tanks, awaiting shipment at Garston Docks on their way from Bosnia to army museums in America. Nineteen shells have been handed in to police, raising concern that many more may be in circulation.

At first it was thought that the brass-cased shells, tapering to a copper-tipped bullet, had been handed out to dock workers as souvenirs. But police said later that children may have climbed over a fence to reach the tanks.

A bomb disposal squad from the Royal Logistic Corps, based at Preston in Lancashire, was called to assess the danger as police searched the docks for further weapons and bullets. Merseyside Police said that anyone finding more ammunition should telephone them immediately. People should treat it with extreme caution and not attempt to handle it.

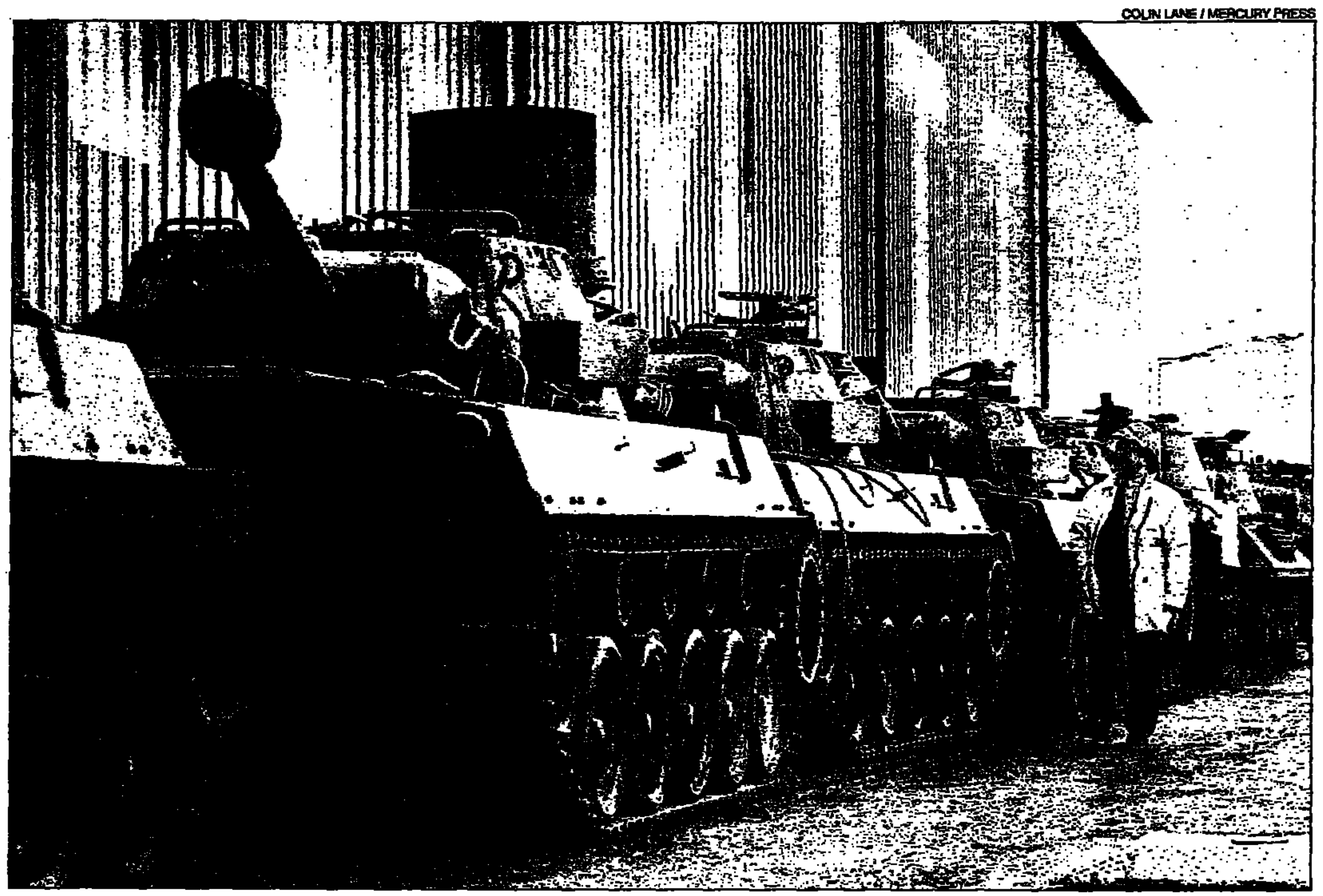
Schools were visited by community officers with photographs of the shells. A police spokeman said: "Our main priority is to get the ammunition back as soon as possible. Even though it is technically an offence to possess the ammunition, police are more concerned for people's safety and won't prosecute anyone for having the shells." Police said there could be catastrophic consequences if one of the shells was thrown on to a bonfire.

They are investigating how the tanks were shipped to Liverpool with live ammunition on board. They said that the ammunition is not tank armament but the type used in heavy and light machineguns. The tanks have been sitting on the dockside for ten days and are due to be shipped across the Atlantic during the next few months.

The T-55s were among hundreds left over after the conflict in Bosnia. They are a development from the Russian Second World War tank, the T-54, and entered service in the late 1950s. During the Gulf War the flimsy armour of T-55s used by Iraq proved little defence against British and American tank rounds and anti-armour missiles.

The tanks were used by the Bosnian Serb forces and were deployed around Srebrenica and Gorazde during the summer of 1995. They were then stockpiled in a football field after the signing of the Dayton peace accord.

COLIN LANE / MERCURY PRESS



The Russian-built tanks used in the Bosnian conflict, awaiting shipment to American museums. The ammunition had been found in the tanks

Mothers killed pensioner who exposed fraud

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THREE single mothers were jailed yesterday for killing a pensioner after he exposed their benefits fraud.

Susan Beveridge, 34, Amanda McDonnell, 24, and Lesley Jones, 23, went to 72-year-old John Walker's Cardiff home, strangled him with his belt, smothered him with a pillow and stamped on his face. The retired steelworker was "scared to death" and died of a heart attack, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Beveridge and McDonnell then forged their victim's signature to collect his pension money. All three women denied murder but their guilty pleas to manslaughter were accepted by the prosecution. Beveridge and McDonnell also admitted robbery.

John Charles Rees, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Beveridge and Mr Walker had been neighbours in the Riverside area of the city for many years but, without the pensioner's knowledge, Beveridge was claiming benefit by using his address. He was interviewed in a spot-check by investigators from the Department of Social Security and gave them Beveridge's name.

Beveridge, the ringleader of the gang, was furious when her benefit was stopped and wanted revenge on Mr Walker, Mr Rees told the court. She rounded up her friends to help her to scare him.

"Beveridge was angry that Mr Walker had grassed on her. She wanted to teach Mr Walker a lesson and planned to terrorise him by putting him in fear of his life," Mr Rees said.

The court was told that Mr Walker's body was not found until a week after his death.

Mr Justice Garland told the three women: "It was a revenge attack after Mr Walker exposed a barefaced benefit fraud.

"You brooded over it and, when drink inflamed your resentment, you hatched this scheme to rough him up."

Beveridge was jailed for seven years for manslaughter and 3½ years for robbery. McDonnell, from Roath, Cardiff, was jailed for five years for manslaughter and 3½ years for robbery. Jones, from Riverside, was jailed for 3½ years after pleading guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Bulgaria in Crisis
BBC launches Appeal

LEFT TO FREEZE
Yordan, 1½, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.

No Money To Feed The Children
No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need.

Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

● £28 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

I enclose £____ to save Bulgarian orphanage children. Cheques to The European Children's Trust. Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card

Card no ____________ Expiry date ________
Signature ____________ Date ________
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ____________
Address ____________
____________ Postcode ________
Telephone no. ____________

Return to: Tanya Barron, (TJ), Bulgaria Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KE8359, 64 Queen Street, LONDON, EC4B 4AR or call 01273 299399 NOW. Registered Charity No. 1048737.

The European Children's Trust

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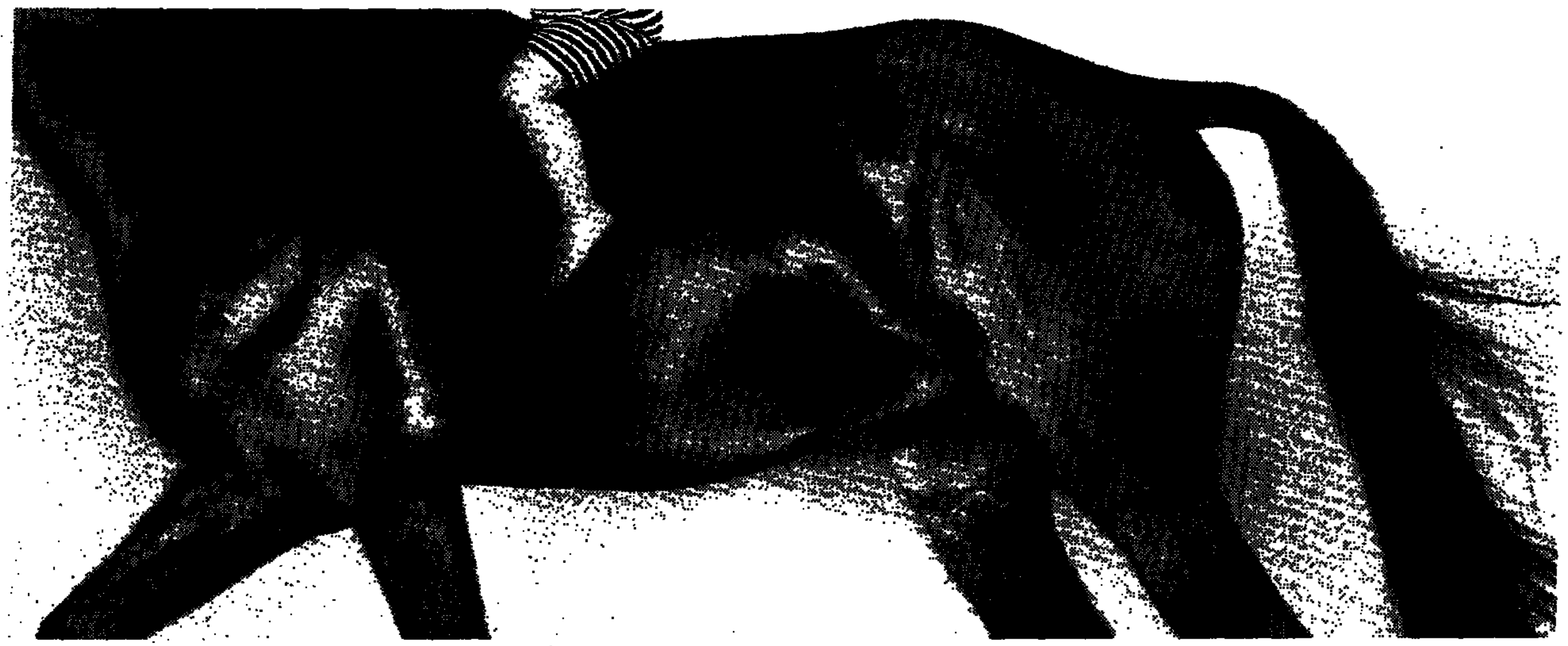

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Porridge? I'd rather have stir fry

Richard Ford on how auditors gave prison food a glowing review, with a little problem over the bill

THE dining room is packed, the menu is varied, and overnight accommodation is all part of the deal. Prison meals have come a long way from the image presented by television programmes such as *Porridge*, according to a report today.

There is south Asian, Chinese and Italian cuisine, and a full range of vegetarian meals. Young offender institutions meet their generation's taste by offering burgers, filled pitta bread and hot dogs. All in all, says the National Audit Office study on prison food, the caterers are doing well in difficult circumstances.

However, like any restaurant review, there are one or two points of criticism. Like the bill. It says that savings of at least £6 million could be made on the overall £60 million annual catering budget, bringing the daily cost down by about 10p a day to a total of £1.27 for breakfast, lunch and dinner. And it says that some food is being cooked too long in advance.

Food is an important part of prison life, says the report. With a captive clientele, poor quality can bring greater risks than elsewhere. "Mealtimes in prisons are a potential flashpoint. While poor quality food usually leads to customer dissatisfaction in any environment, in a prison it can result in anti-social behaviour and, in the worst case, to disturbance and violence."

Long Lartin jail in Worcestershire and Drake Hall women's prison in Staffordshire won four chef hats for providing the highest standard of food of the 12 jails surveyed. However, the study found poor practices in some jails.

Chips were cooked at 9.15am at Coldingley jail, Surrey, for serving 2½ hours later, and fried eggs on the lunch menu were cooked at 9.30am. Although ten of the 12 jails surveyed served satisfactory food, more than half served food at inappropriate temperatures, and none monitored the temperature of food when it was given to inmates.

Only Dover prison served meals within half an hour of them being cooked. None of the jails applied the Prison Service standard of a maximum of 14 hours between evening meals and breakfast. Breakfast was usually at 8am, followed by lunch at 11.45am and the evening meal at 4.30pm.

The study also found variations in the amount of meat and protein items served. On average, 4oz of meat or protein items were served to prisoners per meal, but at Woodhill, near Milton Keynes, the meat content of a dish on one day was only 1½oz, although the caterer said he aimed at three to four ounces.

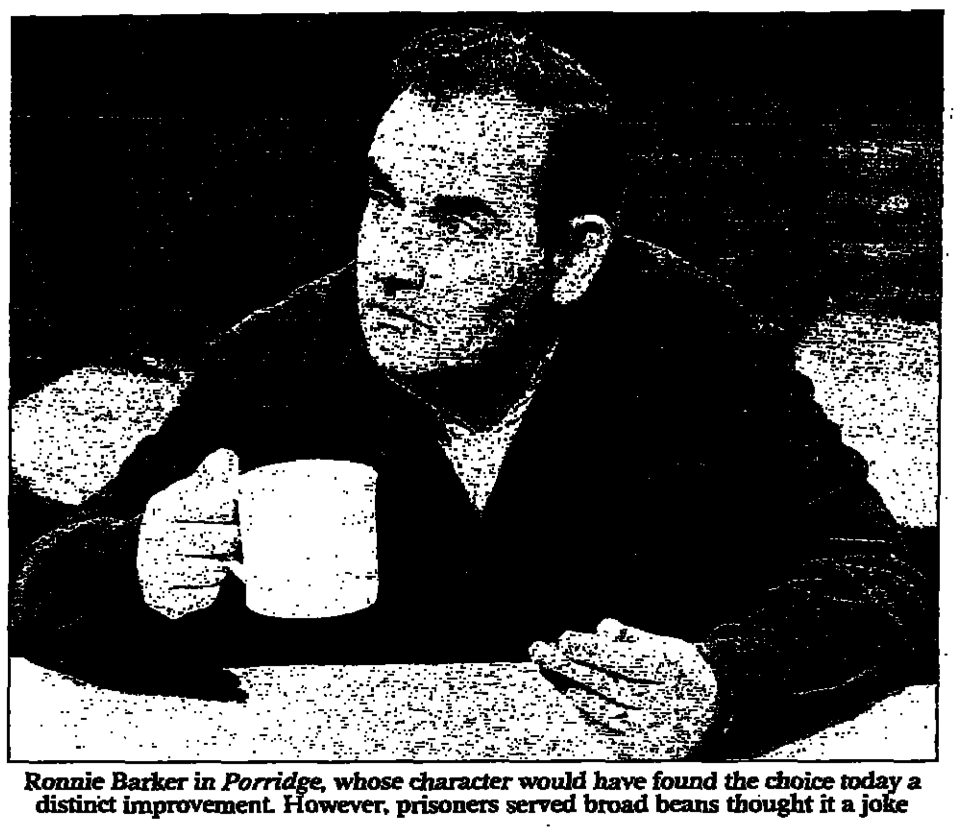
At Downview jail in Surrey, there were 6oz gammon steaks, while at Cardiff corned beef hash contained an average of less than 3oz of meat per portion.

Fresh fruit was rarely available as an alternative dessert because of the relatively high cost. One prison source said last night that though more prisoners wanted fruit, most were not keen on fresh vegetables, and preferred chips and beans. He remembered broad beans being served as an attempt to provide more fresh vegetables, and the prisoners throwing them back at officers because they did not know what they were and thought it was a joke.

The study says that savings could be made by reducing the length of time foodstocks are stored from 27 days to a maximum of ten working days, cutting staff costs and reducing the food budget.

Prison traditionalists will be reassured that in spite of the appearance of chicken vindaloo, vegetarian almond roast and beef olives on menus, porridge remains a staple part of the diet.

☐ *Prison Catering* (Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Stationery Office, £8.45)


Ronnie Barker in *Porridge*, whose character would have found the choice today a distinct improvement. However, prisoners served broad beans thought it a joke

Long Lartin

Prison Menu

Choice of four meals

Sunday

Savoury Baked Potato
Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding
Cheese & Onion Quiche
Roast Pork & Apple Sauce

—✱—

Monday

Mushroom & Potato Croquette
Grilled Gammon & Pineapple
Cheese & Tomato Pizza
Roast Lamb & Gravy

—✱—

Tuesday

Mexican Bean Pot
Braised Liver & Onions
Grilled Fish & Lemon
Lamb, Vegetable Curry & Rice

Wednesday

Steamed Vegetable Pudding
Grilled Pork Chop
Fried Fish in Batter
Individual Cottage Pie

—✱—

Thursday

Vegetable Fried Rice
Beef, Vegetable stew & Dumplings
Gammon Hot Pot
Macaroni Cheese

—✱—

Friday

Vegetable Stir Fry
Roast Pork & Gravy
Braised Liver & Onions
French Bread Pizza

—✱—

Saturday

Dhal Curry & Rice
Fish Du Glere
Lancashire Hot Pot
Sweet & Sour Pork

New food agency to digest all health aspects

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE new Food Standards Agency will have sweeping powers to control all aspects of food "from plough to plate", Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, said yesterday.

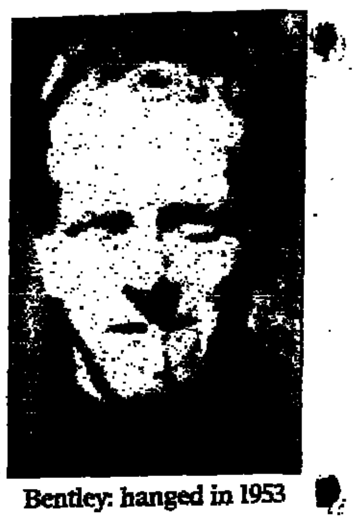
Its tasks will include advice on nutrition and the production of food by farmers, and its powers will not stop at the farm gate.

Mr Rooker, who was speaking at the Agra Europe conference in London, said: "If animal feed affects public health, if what is sprayed on crops affects public health, if food additives affect public health, these are the concern of the Agency. There are no 'no-go areas'." The agency would have the power to step in when, for example, the Ministry of Agriculture was not taking action.

A White Paper outlining the responsibilities of the agency is to be published later this month. Efforts by the food industry to limit its remit to food safety and to exclude advice on nutrition appear to have been overruled. Some scientists, including the Royal Society, had also advised that nutrition advice was best left to another body.

Mr Rooker, who denied press reports that there had been disagreements within the Government over the responsibilities of the new body, said the agency would mark a "sea change in the way we handle food safety".

The agency would sit outside traditional departmental structures, be free of commercial or vested interests, and be open in its workings, he said. With further consultation after the White Paper is published, the agency is expected to be running by mid 1999.


Bentley: hanged in 1953

Bentley case wins appeal hearing

By Richard Ford

THE Court of Appeal is to reconsider the case of Derek Bentley 44 years after he was convicted and hanged at the age of 19 for murdering a policeman during a robbery.

The decision by the Criminal Cases Review Commission to refer the case for another hearing is a triumph for his family but came too late for his sister, Iris, who died of cancer in January while still campaigning to get her brother a full pardon.

His family has always maintained that Bentley, who had a mental age of 11, should never have hanged for his part in the killing of PC Sidney Miles in Croydon, South London, in 1952.

Yesterday's announcement is a result of new medical evidence and submissions of legal irregularities sent by lawyers acting for Maria Bentley-Dingwall, Bentley's niece, and Dennis Bentley, his brother.

PC Miles was shot dead by Christopher Craig, Bentley's accomplice. Three police officers told their trial that moments before the shot, Bentley shouted: "Let him have it, Chris." Craig, who was too young to hang, was detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure.

CORRECTION

The National Breast Screening Service offers screening to all women aged between 50 and 64 once every three years, not every five, as reported on October 28.

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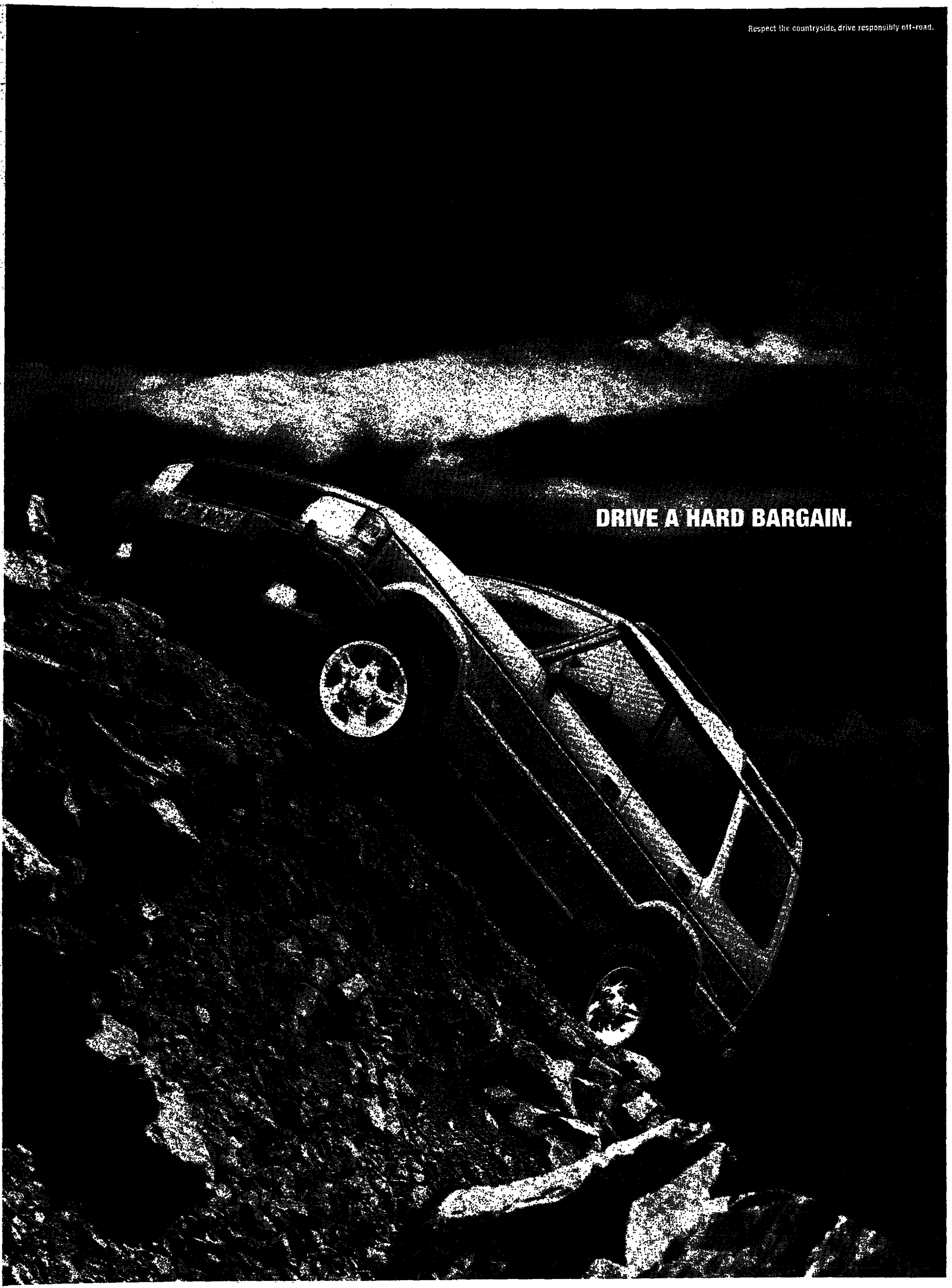

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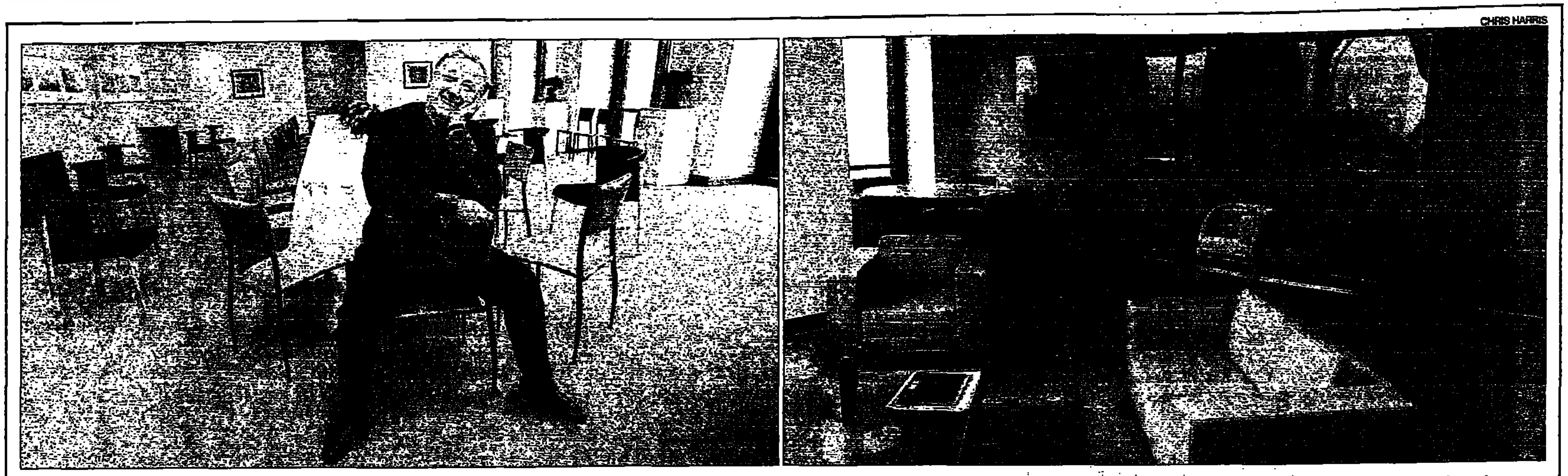
CHRIS HARRIS

Seating planner: Sir Terence Conran presents the dining room he has created, while a sofa dominates the room to be used by President Chirac and his team. Sir Terence has had ten days to prepare the design showpiece

Blair couches French summit in terms of British style

Designer sofas will show that new Labour leads the world in political furniture, writes **Damian Whitworth**

TONY BLAIR intends to show the French today that they now lag behind Britain in the style stakes — so he has invited President Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin to a sofa summit.

Mr Blair likes sofas. At Downing Street he works in a poky little office sitting on one. This morning he is to entertain his visitors on eight of the most stylish sofas in the land.

Eager to show his guests that in new Britain cricket and warm beer are out and creativity and cool designs are in, Mr Blair has taken over the 38th floor of the Canary Wharf tower in London's Docklands for the Anglo-French summit. Sir Terence Conran, the designer, restaurateur and new Labourite, had ten days to transform the empty shell in Europe's tallest office block into a showcase for modern British interior decor.

The walls are bright white with the occasional ochre or sea-blue surface, and plasterboard and frosted-glass partitions have been hastily erected to create several rooms. Expensive rugs have been tossed on to a slightly grubby grey carpet and art from the government collection, including works by Howard Hodgkin, Victor Pasmore, Patrick Caulfield and Hamish Fulton adorn the walls.

The main meeting room uses furniture by young British designers from Sir Terence's stores. Two solid ash tables with "zinc-wrapped" legs dominate but the hard talking is more likely to take place in the corner, on three summit sofas. Described as "buffed-suede" pieces, they provide room for two premiers and a president to spread out, but the issue of who sits on which was a subject of some debate.

Who should sit facing the room? If the distance between them hindered easy discourse should Mr Blair slip on to a French sofa and would it offend the President if he did? Or would it be an insult if he joined the President's Prime Minister instead? With a busy schedule of meetings between every possible combination of president, prime minister and foreign, defence and European minister, there will be a lot of sofa hopping.

The parties will be able to take breathers in little ante-rooms off the main meeting hall. Mr Blair has a six-seater sofa in his. M Jospin and M Chirac have two sofas each: M Chirac's are orange, square, Seventies-style pieces while M Jospin has a huge, red, Italian thing that slipped in somehow among the home-made stuff, and a rather futuristic white creation. He also has the best gizmo: a light called a microchrome with little panels pulsing all the colours of the rainbow in a half-hour sequence.

All the furniture has been lent free to Mr Blair's design cause. "This gives the message that Britain is not only interested in its past heritage," Sir Terence said. "It is interested in creating a modern heritage." Sir Terence said he had spoken that morning to Jack Lang, the former French Culture Secretary: "He was depressed that the mantle of creativity had gone from the French to the British."

An aide said yesterday that it was not known whether the Prime Minister would take his guests round to the other side of the tower, point to the building site below and explain that it is going to be the most expensive piece of British design of all: the Greenwich dome. He may just decide to enjoy his sofas.

Radiation link to high rate of child cancers ruled out

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

A MYSTERY virus could be responsible for the children of radiation industry workers developing leukaemia, according to evidence published today.

A study based on 117,000 men and 11,000 women who worked in the industry between 1952 and 1986, and on the 35,949 children who had cancer diagnosed in those years, showed that about 12 in 10,000 children of radiation workers developed leukaemia compared with a national average of just over six.

However, the research found that there was no link between the level of radiation to which workers were exposed and the incidence of leukaemia among their children. The highest proportion of leukaemia cases was found among the children of workers who had been exposed to so little radiation that it failed to register on detectors.

The survey was carried out to test the theory put forward in 1990 by Martin Gardner, of Southampton University, who in a two-year study found that children of workers at Sellafield were twice as likely to develop leukaemia. He suggested that this might be a result of their father's sperm being genetically altered by exposure to radiation.

The new study concludes that "if there is any increased risk for the children of fathers who are radiation workers it is small in absolute terms. For mothers the numbers are too small for reliable estimates of the risk, if any, to be made."

The report, published in the *British Medical Journal*, found that there was no real evidence to back Professor Gardner's theory. Instead, it appeared that an unknown virus was responsible. "Certain studies of population mixing have pointed to adult transmission of infection," the report said.

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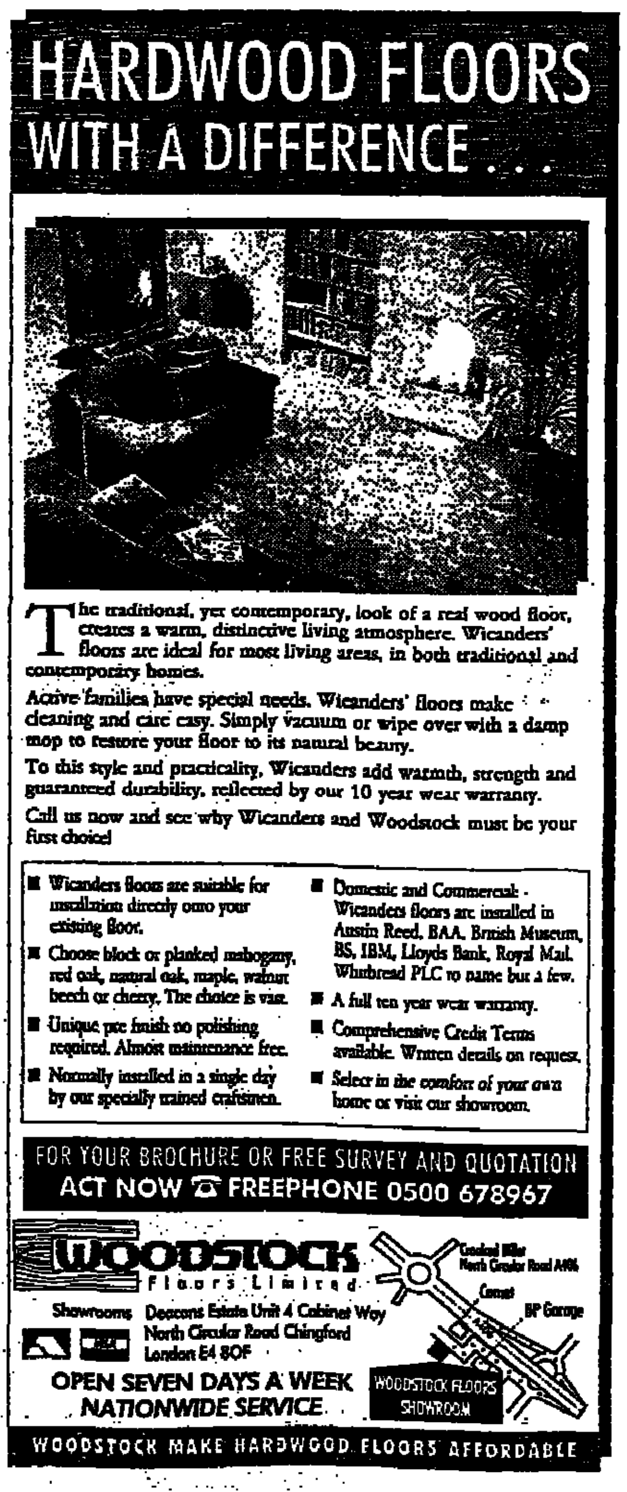
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What your choice of Christmas card means

Mark Henderson on a survey of the messages hidden in greetings

SHOPPERS are making their choice of Christmas cards more carefully than ever, because increasingly rootless lifestyles mean that it may be their only contact with the recipient all year, a psychologist said yesterday. The result is that cards are more likely to betray the senders' true background and personality.

A card says as much about a person as their home, car or job, according to Cary Cooper, Professor of Psychology at UMIST in Manchester, in a study for the Cancer Research Campaign. Sending a large card is working class, he said. A snowscape or village scene indicates a suburban, aspirational background, and small and intricate designs suggest education.

Robins or flowers are sent by careful people who try not to risk upsetting friends. People who send lots of humorous cards often show arrogance and insensitivity. Religious subjects, particularly modern ones, naturally indicate a reverent attitude, but Old Master paintings of the Nativity or the Wise Men are also chosen by the upper middle-class showing off their taste.

People are becoming more choosy because of the growth of a more mobile and rootless society, Professor Cooper said. "These days, a Christmas card is often the only contact you make with an acquaintance all year, so there is a real need to make a statement. There is a process of part-conscious and part-unconscious choice going on, by which cards are reflecting personalities and backgrounds as never before.

Journey of the Magi, chosen by conservative types; *Santa Square* is caring; *Robin's Surprise* neutral

"Large cards tend to be sent by lower socio-economic groups, who are saying, 'Look, this is important'. The better-off go for more discreet, arty cards, usually for a charity — they don't need size to make a statement."

Family photographs betray a desire to make a more personal link with the recipient, but humorous cards are a risk: "You can get into real trouble with a funny card, unless you know the person is in on the joke. Anyone who sends a job lot of funny cards is going to be totally socially unskilled."

Professor Cooper studied cards in the Cancer Research Campaign's catalogue, profiling the kind of person who would buy them. *Robin's Surprise*, a picture of the bird which opens to reveal a tree and presents, was a neutral card that might be sent to a cousin or work colleague: "It offends no one and could be sent by any age or class. It's also rather uninspiring."

The Journey of the Magi would be sent by a conservative religious type: "The reverent sentiment is clear, and it is not an Old Master. That suggests that religion is the key to the sender."

Santa Square was a children's card, or for adults who wanted to look caring. "An adult sending this one, particularly because it's a charity card, is trying to tweak the kid in you. It shows generosity, excitement and care."

The largest card studied, *Snow Scene*, was an "Essex man" card, he said: "It has a lower-middle or working class, aspirational feel. This rather twee scene is where the sender feels he ought to be living at Christmas, and it's a big card, which suggests a material statement."

Snow Scene is sent by Essex man, the professor said: "It's a material statement"

Dead man was 13 times over drink limit

By Simon de Bruxelles

A DAIRY worker was 13 times over the drink-drive limit when he died. Harpal Furhuraire, 35, had drunk more than twice the normally fatal quantity of alcohol when he collapsed while waiting for a lift home after being sacked, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Furhuraire, of Quedgeley, Gloucestershire, had been dismissed for being drunk at work. A blood test revealed 1,012 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood. The legal limit for driving is 80 mg.

At the inquest in Tewkesbury, Lester Maddrell, the Coroner, recorded a verdict of death by misadventure. Mr Furhuraire's wife, Angela, said that he had had an alcohol problem for two or three years and had been drinking neat vodka.

On the Saturday before his death he had been sent home from work at Dairy Crest because he was drunk, she said. He went back to work the next Monday but she was phoned by a workmate that evening and told to collect him.

She said: "I walked down the high street and saw him lying in the road. I tried to comfort him and speak to him but there was no response."

Andrew McNeill, of the Institute for Alcohol Studies, an educational charity, said later: "If this level of alcohol is not a record, then it must be close to it. I am surprised he was physically able to drink so much without vomiting."

Boy, 12, forces biased BBC to walk the plank

By Carol Midgley, media correspondent

A BOY of 12 has forced the BBC to apologise for placing anti-Tory propaganda in a children's programme about pirates. Oliver Tickner was outraged when he watched the tea-time television show and heard the characters refer to an old people's home being closed by a "Conservative council" and an elderly woman being thrown out of her wheelchair on to the floor because of Tory cutbacks.

Unfortunately for the BBC, Oliver's father is Michael Tickner, Conservative leader of Bromley Council, in south-east London. When his son told him about the offending scene and armed him with videotaped evidence, Mr Tickner took the matter to the BBC's complaints unit.

Yesterday Fraser Steel, head of the unit, confirmed that the complaint had been upheld and would be published by the BBC's Board of Governors in its next complaints bulletin. He has written to Mr Tickner and Oliver informing them of the ruling. "We hold our hands up to this one. They have us bang to rights," Mr Steel said yesterday.

"Political remarks like that are quite out of place in a children's programme, although we would explain that this is quite a surreal show about a group of rather dangerous pirate folk. Taken out of context, however, I can see that the scene would appear quite outrageous."

In another scene in the show, *Pirates* — which was made by an independent production company and features actors Liz Smith, Hayley Elliott and Paul Brown — a nun who is running the residential home remarks that, had she not taken vows against violence, she would "cut their [the Tory councillors'] ears off".

In the letter to Mr Tickner, Mr Steel said the matter had been taken up with Anna Home, the BBC's head of children's programming. "*Pirates* is a slapstick comedy aimed at eight and nine-year-olds who generally have little political awareness. Even so, I would accept that the perjorative remarks made by the nun about the behaviour of a fictional Conservative council were out of place."

Mr Tickner, who made the news last week when he called for homosexual couples and single parents to be banned from adopting children, said that he was proud of his son's political awareness. "I am delighted with Oliver's alertness to this issue. He was watching the programme with his sister Amy, who is nine, and she also thought it was terrible. Oliver does a bit of debating at school and he is politically aware, probably because of his dad."

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Firms to stop testing cosmetics on animals

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

THE immediate ban on testing cosmetic products on animals, announced by the Government yesterday, will result in about 250 fewer rabbits, guinea-pigs and rats being used for research each year.

The change will make hardly any impact on the total number of animals used in medical and safety research, which last year amounted to 2.7 million, according to Home Office figures.

A total of 2,800 animals were used in tests related to cosmetics; of these 2,550 were involved in experiments to test the individual ingredients that went into a product — which will continue — compared with the 250 used in tests on finished products.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, a Junior Home Office Minister, said yesterday that the three research companies still conducting such experiments had agreed voluntarily to relinquish their licences, the longest of which would have run until 2002. He added that it would not be possible to stop the animal-testing of cosmetic ingredients immediately because many of the substances were also used in pharmaceutical products and no acceptable alternative tests were available.

Lord Williams said that he had no problem in justifying animal experiments where there was a clear medical need. "Do you want a cure for Alzheimer's, for cancer, for Aids? If you do, you are likely to have testing of animals."

Andrew Tyler, director of Animal Aid, a charity opposed to all animal experiments, said: "This is a cosmetic decision in every sense of the term and falls well short of the commitments given by Labour before the election."

The National Anti-Vivisection Society welcomed "a small step towards reducing animal suffering", but said many people had voted for Labour believing that it planned to do something about all animal testing.

In an electioneering document, *New Life for Animals*, signed by Tony Blair, Labour said it was "totally committed to stopping cosmetic testing on animals" and noted that the "beauty industry already has a huge range of perfectly safe ingredients". The document said the party also supported setting up a Royal Commission to review testing.

The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection said the announcement was "a victory for hundreds of animals". Roger Gale, Tory chairman of the all-party Animal Welfare Group, said: "These are significant steps forward."

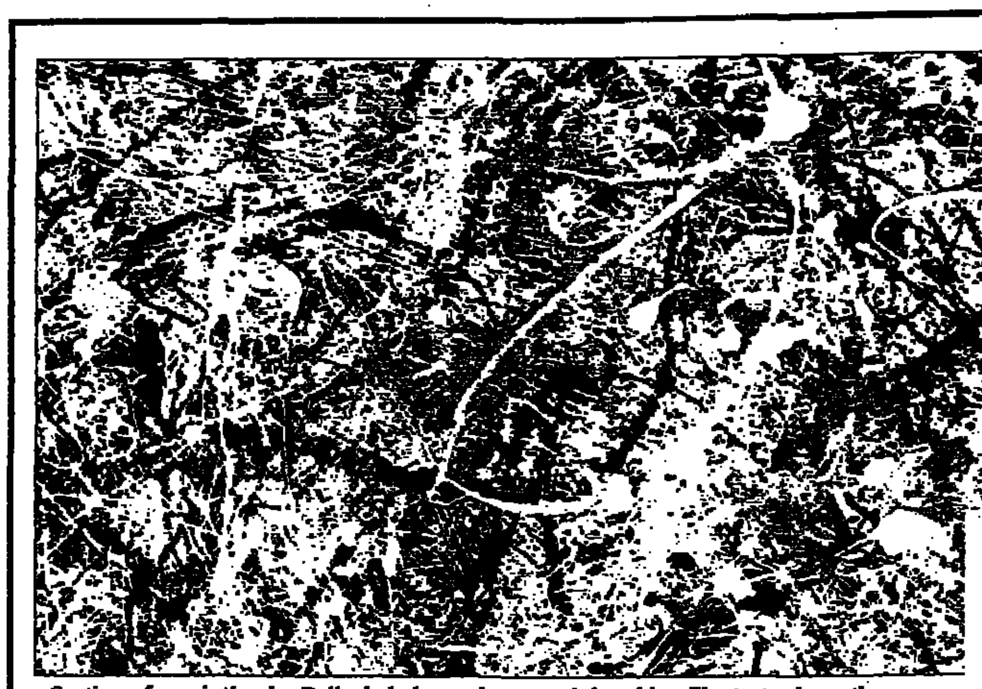
Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop, which does not sell products tested on animals, said: "This is a major victory for The Body Shop, all animal welfare groups and the millions of people who have signed petitions to get a ban."

THE EXPERIMENTS

Mice, rats, rabbits and guinea-pigs make up 87 per cent of animals used in scientific experiments:

- ***Mice: 1,501,956 used, most in fundamental biological*** **research, medical, dental and veterinary research; 296,000 to test toxicity of pharmaceuticals and food. Used in experiments that have virtually proved the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is identical to BSE.**
- **Rats: 688,845 used, mainly for same kind of research as mice. Some 250,000 used in safety and toxicity tests.**
- **Guinea-pigs: 103,725 used, predominantly for applied human medical and dental research.**
- **Rabbits: 53,631 used. Mainly for applied studies in medicine and dentistry. 33,000 in toxicity tests.**
- **Dogs: 5,860 used.**

Source: *Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals in Great Britain 1996* (Home Office)



Section of a painting by Pollock, below, whose work is said to illustrate chaos theory

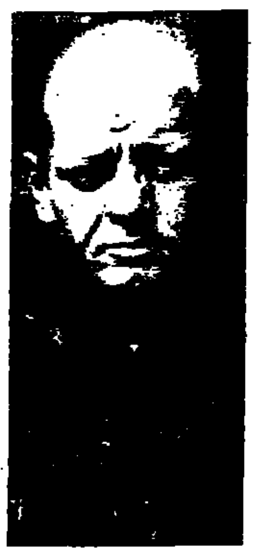
Science extols Pollock's chaotic art

By Anjana Ahuja

A DRIP painting by Jackson Pollock may look like random flecks, but the artist appears to have been blessed with a deep understanding of nature.

An Australian physicist says that Pollock's works are notable examples of chaos theory. Richard Taylor, of the University of New South Wales in Sydney, allowed a leaking tin of paint to swing across a canvas on the floor. Disorder was introduced by randomly knocking the pendulum. As Dr Taylor reveals in *Physics World*, the most chaotic drip patterns held the greatest artistic appeal. He also found that some of Pollock's paintings have fractal qualities, possessing similar patterns at different magnifications.

Dr Taylor concludes that Pollock, who died in a drunken car crash in 1956, may have "subconsciously understood the patterns of nature so well that he was able to capture their very essence — chaos and fractals — on canvas".



Road-rage led to HIV infection

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

A VIOLENT argument between two car drivers after an accident led to one of them becoming infected with HIV, according to a report in *The Lancet* today.

After the collision the two men confronted each other. One driver was wearing metal-framed spectacles, which he pushed on to his forehead.

Suddenly the driver of the other car head-butted him so hard that an imprint of the spectacles was left on both their foreheads and they began to bleed copiously. During the short moment that their blood mingled, the infection passed from one to the other.

The assailant was discovered to be someone with a long history of intravenous drug use. In May 1990, he had reported syringe exchange and sexual intercourse with a woman who was HIV positive. Blood tests showed that not only did he have HIV, but he was infected with both hepatitis B and C.

Three days after the fight the victim of the assault tested negative for HIV but a fortnight later he developed symptoms consistent with primary infection of the illness. Three months later he also had acute hepatitis B and tested positive for HIV. A sample of his HIV was then DNA tested, which confirmed that he was infected with a virus identical to his attacker's.

The incident, reported by researchers from the San Raffaele Scientific Institute in Milan, occurred at Bolzano in northern Italy. The researchers do not say who was responsible for the original accident.

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French angry at 'scandalous size' of Diana inquiry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AN EXCESSIVE amount of time, energy and money is being spent on the investigation into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. French police and lawyers have complained.

Investigating judges Hervé Stephan and Marie-Christine Devidal, who are working on the theory that the Mercedes carrying the Princess might have struck another car before the crash, this week ordered police to start interviewing 40,000 owners of Fiat Uno cars in one of the largest and most complex operations mounted by French police.

"This is a real scandal," Jehanne Collard, a Paris lawyer specialising in traffic cases, said. "In terms of equal treatment for all, it's morally and judicially unacceptable.

"The accident, in itself, is distressingly banal," insisted Mme Collard, who is also vice-president of a foundation lobbying for increased road safety. Thousands died every year in traffic accidents in France, she added, yet 60 per cent were never investigated.

Henri Paul, the chauffeur who also died in the crash along with Dodi Fayed, the Princess's companion, was three times over the legal drink-driving limit. Mme Collard said that alcohol was involved in 70 per cent of all fatal car accidents in France. "If Diana, the media's Queen of Hearts, mother of the future king, had not died in the accident, the case would have been closed long ago," she told *France-Soir* newspaper.

Police unions have also complained at the scale of the investigation. "It is unacceptable that any citizen should receive preferential treatment under the law, even if they are a princess," Jean-Louis Arajol, secretary general of the SGP-CUP police union, said. The elite Criminal Brigade has deployed four teams of six police inspectors — more than a quarter of its entire staff — in the hunt for the Fiat Uno, which could eventually involve more than 100,000 interviews. Dozens more officers are working on other aspects of the investigation, which is unlikely to be completed before late next year.

The cost of scientific tests on the wrecked Mercedes has already reached Fr 2 million (£200,000), according to *Le Figaro*, which described the investigation as a "judicial monster" and "one of the biggest and most expensive police inquiries of the decade".

"This police mobilisation verges on the indecent," Gérard Boyer of the Alliance police union said. "When you compare the resources being poured into this affair with those usually deployed against criminals, the whole thing makes your head spin." Even some members of the Criminal Brigade, more used to hunting major law-breakers, have objected to the time wasted on an accident that does not really lie within their field of expertise.

No budget has been set and, given the huge international interest in the accident, the magistrates in charge are determined to show that the French justice system is leaving no stone unturned.

Some French lawyers say that a simple, if tragic, case of drunk driving is being turned into an international public relations exercise or, as one newspaper headline observed: "A Grand Spectacle". "What is the point of all these investigations, when any chance of prosecution ended with the death of the drunk chauffeur, who was driving too fast?" Mme Collard demanded.

Within hours of the crash several photographers and a motorcycle driver who had pursued the Princess were placed under formal legal investigation on possible manslaughter charges. Lawyers for the photographers argue that they are victims of the investigators' determination, under diplomatic and media pressure to prove they are exploring every avenue.

☐ A children's centre in memory of the Princess is to be opened in Paris by the city's mayor. No site has been selected, but diplomatic sources said there were moves to locate it in a park.

HIDAJET DELIC / AP

A stamp issued yesterday by Bosnia in honour of Diana, Princess of Wales, and her work for landmine victims. The 100,000 copies were printed in Berlin and have a face value in marks, the country's *de facto* currency

DNA test unravels mummy's infection

BY IAN MURRAY

A NOBLEMAN who died more than 3,000 years ago was suffering from tuberculosis, the first diagnosis by DNA of a disease in an Egyptian mummy has revealed.

The earliest proven trace of the disease before this was in a Peruvian mummy dating from between AD 1000 and 1300.

Until now the problems posed by contamination of ancient tissue have made accurate examination difficult.

However, DNA tests on the mummy — found in the tombs of the nobles at Thebes-West in Upper Egypt by the German Institute of Archaeology in Cairo — revealed that tuberculosis was present in the left lung.

Researchers from the Ludwig-Maximillians University in Munich said: "A carefully controlled analysis of ancient Egyptian mummies may provide insights into infectious diseases of ancient individuals and populations."

Easy test gives early warning of heart failure

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SIMPLE, inexpensive blood test has been developed that gives early warning of heart failure in patients with minor symptoms such as shortness of breath and tiredness.

At its onset, heart failure can be hard to distinguish from common illnesses such as lung disease. The test, described in *The Lancet* today, isolates hormones released by the heart when it fails. The hormones, known as natriuretic peptides, cause the kidney to filter out salt, and blood vessels to dilate. They help to reduce fluid retention that occurs during heart failure.

Researchers at the National Heart and Lung Institute at Hillingdon Hospital in London carried out the usual examinations on 122 patients who had had heart failure diagnosed by their GPs. They found that only 35 were suffering from the illness. Blood tests on the 35 showed that they had an unusually high concentration of the peptide.

Martin Cowie, who led the research team, said: "If further research backs our findings, we think testing for these peptide levels could become a simple and vital tool in diagnosing heart failure. GPs could send blood samples for testing, rather than sending patients to hospital for time-consuming and expensive tests."

Heart failure arises when the heart is damaged and is unable to pump blood efficiently. To ensure a correct diagnosis, it is often necessary to arrange X-rays and echocardiograms, which cannot be done in GPs' surgeries.

Brian Pentecost, medical director of the British Heart Foundation, said that the difficulty of diagnosis slowed treatment. The new test opened the door to quicker and more reliable diagnosis.

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HUDDERSFIELD*
14 The Shambles (Opp. Bns)

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Mid Level, The Exchange Centre(nr C&A) (next to Top Man)

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'Fudged' report puts sleaze back on agenda

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

PARLIAMENT'S new system for policing sleaze was under attack last night after its Commons watchdog committee fudged its verdict on the central question of the Neil Hamilton affair.

It failed to decide whether he was guilty of taking cash for questions from the Harrods chairman Mohamed Al Fayed, finding instead that he was culpable of a series of breaches of parliamentary rules. Lord Nolan, the architect of the self-regulatory rules, led the calls for a revamp of the disciplinary regime and MPs of all parties voiced concern.

The Commons Standards and Privileges Committee unanimously concluded in its long-awaited report that Mr Hamilton was guilty of conduct which fell seriously below the standard required of MPs. It censured Mr Hamilton over his failure to disclose payments from lobbyists, his free holiday at Mr Al Fayed's Paris Ritz hotel, and for "deliberately misleading" Michael Heseltine to keep his ministerial job. "Had Mr Hamilton still been an MP we would have recommended a substantial period of suspension from the service of the House," the committee wrote in its report.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner, had concluded that there was "compelling evidence" that Mr Hamilton took up to £25,000 stuffed in envelopes from Mr Al Fayed. The committee found that "there can be no absolute proof that such payments were, or were not, made".

Sir Gordon, in a rare public statement, could not conceal his discontent with the way the inquiry had operated. "There are lessons to be learned. One of them is that my responsibilities and those of the committee should be much more clearly defined before we embark on any comparable investigation," he said.

Two senior Tory members of the committee, Ann Widdecombe and Quentin Davies, publicly disassociated themselves from the report because of its failure to reach a conclusion on the central allegation.They were also unfuriated that they were denied the chance to cross-examine witnesses such as Mr Al Fayed. There was speculation that if they had done so Sir Gordon might have resigned because it would have amounted to a reopening of his own investigation.

Lord Nolan, the outgoing chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, which set up the self-regulatory system, suggested the MPs had given Sir Gordon more responsibility than his own committee had originally envisaged. He said the committee might wish to re-examine the procedure used.

Mr Davies, who voted against the report, said "The whole report was a complete and discreditable shambles."

Miss Widdecombe said: "Neil Hamilton has not been found guilty or innocent of taking cash for questions. He has been denied a right of appeal. He has been denied natural justice. What a farce."

Mr Hamilton, who has always denied the claims he took cash for questions, told a news conference the committee's report was a "washing of hands exercise". He accepted that he had been found guilty of "errors of interpretation" over the rules of declaration of payments. But the charge of cash for questions, which amounted to corruption, had not been found. "It is the difference between murder and a parking offence."

Mr Al Fayed's spokesman said last night night that the Harrods chairman did not regret accusing Mr Hamilton. "Rather, he takes satisfaction in the fact that his conduct contributed to the cleaning-up of public life in this country by means of the Nolan Committee," he said.

SIMON WALKER

Neil Hamilton and his MP, Martin Bell, the former opponent who has agreed to help him to clear his name

MPs found no absolute proof of cash payments being made

Committee report stops short of backing Downey over Al Fayed's allegation, reports Andrew Pierce

SIR GORDON Downey's 900-page report left no doubt that Neil Hamilton had accepted thousands of pounds in brown envelopes from Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods.

But the Commons committee, while concluding that Mr Hamilton's conduct fell well below the standard expected of MPs, failed to reach agreement on whether he had accepted cash for questions.

Mr Hamilton is censured in the MPs' report for accepting free holidays, undeclared commission payments from lobbyists, and misleading Michael Heseltine. But on the issue which haunted John Major's Government for three years they were hopelessly divided.

Two senior Tory members, Ann Widdecombe and Quentin Davies, publicly disowned the report because of the refusal to cross-examine Mr Al Fayed and reach a conclusion on the cash-for-questions allegation.

Sir Gordon, the Parliamentary Commissioner, was emphatic in his report which was published in July. "The evidence that Mr Hamilton received cash payments directly from Mr Al Fayed in return for lobbying services is compelling; and so I conclude."

He rejected Mr Hamilton's protestations of innocence in favour of the word of two "reliable witnesses" — two secretaries for Mr Al Fayed who told the inquiry they regularly took messages from Mr and Mrs Hamilton when "the payments were late".

The decisive blow in Mr Hamilton's case in the eyes of Sir Gordon was the admission by Tim Smith, then MP for Beaconsfield, that he had accepted between £18,000 to £25,000 from Mr Al Fayed. "In both the timing and the method of payment Mr Smith's case provides strong support for Mr Al Fayed's allegations against Mr Hamilton," Sir Gordon wrote.

"Further, I have not received any convincing explanation as to why Mr Al Fayed should make truthful allegations of cash payments to Mr Smith — but similar untruthful allegations in relation to Mr Hamilton."

The MPs found the payments to Mr Hamilton the most difficult issue of all: "There can be no absolute proof that such payments were, or were not, made. There is no oral evidence independent of Mr Al Fayed and those who were working with him at the time."

The first draft of the report added: "We have no reason to question his [Sir Gordon's] findings and we therefore endorse them." But the wording was watered down to: "The committee did not arrive at a practicable way of reaching a judgment which adds or subtracts from the Commissioner's findings."

The committee agreed with Sir Gordon that Mr Hamilton had "deliberately misled" Mr Heseltine, then President of the Board of Trade, over links with lobbyists.

The committee backed Sir Gordon's criticism of Mr and Mrs Hamilton's stay at the Paris Ritz hotel, which is owned by Mr Al Fayed, where they ran up a £2,500 bill. Mr Hamilton, who failed to declare it, denied it was a reward for lobbying.

The committee added: "Cumulatively this list of omissions adds up to a casualness bordering on indifference or contempt towards the rules of the House on disclosure of interests. Mr Hamilton's conduct fell seriously below the standards which the House is entitled to expect of its MPs. Had Mr Hamilton still been an MP we would have recommended a substantial period of suspension."

Loose ends are sign of a few shortcomings

NEIL HAMILTON has not been cleared. The report from the Standards and Privileges Committee is unsatisfactory in many ways, and leaves far too many loose ends, as seems inevitable in anything to do with Mohammed Al Fayed. But Mr Hamilton cannot claim to be vindicated.

The committee discusses a series of charges about Mr Hamilton's failure to declare and register interests and his acceptance of commission payments. It concludes that "cumulatively this list of omissions adds up to a casualness bordering on indifference or contempt towards the rules of the House on disclosure of interests". Consequently, "Mr Hamilton's conduct fell seriously and persistently below the standards which the House is entitled to expect of its members. Had Mr Hamilton still been a member we would have recommended a substantial period of suspension." For Mr Hamilton to dismiss these findings as being like a parking ticket is ludicrous and reinforces the committee's criticisms.

However, the committee failed to find a satisfactory way of judging the damning conclusions on the central cash-for-questions allegations reached by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. There is a direct clash between Mr Hamilton and Mr Al Fayed. As Sir Gordon said yesterday: "I had grave doubts about the opportunity given to Mr Hamilton alone to restate his case, unquestioned on television, and to accuse other witnesses of lying under the cloak of parliamentary privilege. It seemed to me that this could disadvantage the complainants and leave those witnesses unfairly exposed, without the right to reply."

The fault lies not with Sir Gordon, who did his job thoroughly and properly, but with the committee and the post-Nolan structure. As Lord Nolan pointed out yesterday, the Standards and Privileges Committee had not followed the procedures which his committee had recommended in May 1995. "They've devolved more responsibility on Sir Gordon for the purposes of the Neil Hamitlon case than we had envisaged." The balance is wrong between Sir Gordon's function in *setting out the* charges and facts and that of the committee. There are no clear appeal procedures, leaving Mr Hamilton feeling aggrieved.

One response is to argue that self-regulation does not work and should be replaced by some form of judicial inquiry or criminal law. Proposals to clarify the law on bribery and corruption affecting MPs and a new offence of misuse of public office are already being considered. But these would not cover the essentially disciplinary issues of disclosure of interests and even the cash-for-questions charges.

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

The criminal and the disciplinary should be split. The latter should remain with Parliament, but with quasi-judicial procedures. The Parliamentary Commissioner should carry out preliminary investigations. Any subsequent hearings should be chaired by a prominent legally qualified figure, with lawyers representing the main parties. MPs would act as a jury, and then later recommend a sentence to be decided by the full House. That would create a proper appellate procedure from the Commissioner's findings.

In the interim, the business managers of the main parties need to consider whether the current committee is functioning properly, or whether its composition needs to be changed. In his catechism of question and answer issued yesterday, Sir Gordon asked, "does this draw a line under the sleaze allegations?" and replied: "I sincerely hope so." I would not bet on it. We have not heard the last of Neil, or Christine, Hamilton.

Peter Riddell

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Labour hits back after 'offensive' attack on Jowell

B ir aides deny any link between inister's husband and tobacco ecision, reports **Nicholas Watt**

DO ING STREET rallied to th defence of Tessa Jowell yest ay after the Tories clai d that there was a "hint of i propriety" in her decision to ex pt Formula One motor raci from a ban on tobacco adv sing.

M Jowell's husband, Dav Mills, was until recently a n-executive director of the rmula One company Ben n Formula. But Tony Blai senior spokesman said that e Health Minister had gon great lengths to ensure that r family's links with mot racing did not conflict with er role in reviewing toba advertising.

Th Government caused surp e at Westminster when the emption was disclosed on T sday. Tony Blair sanction the decision after leaders the sport told him last mon that if tobacco sponsorship ere banned grand prix race ould be moved out of the ropean Union.

Ye rday the Downing Stre spokesman said: "It is offe ve to say that simply beca e her husband was a dire r it means that she inca ble of exercising her judgment as a minister properly. You can find connections for all sorts of things. You can get ridiculous about this."

Mills: accused Tories of making mischief

The spokesman was responding to attempts by Tory MPs to discredit Ms Jowell. John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said: "At best it is foolish and at worst it is obviously much worse to let anyone think there isn't a hint of impropriety."

Mr Maples wrote to Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, to demand an investigation. He said in the letter: "It appears to the public that a Government which is preaching the highest standards in public life is apparently practising a different standards in taking policy decisions."

Downing Street pointed out that Ms Jowell, who described the Tory attacks as "deeply offensive", took action weeks after the election to ensure that there would be no conflict of interest between her ministerial duties and her husband's work. Mr Mills, 53, a senior partner with the city law firm Withers, resigned from the board of Benetton Formula One on 20 May, although he remained as a legal adviser to Benetton.

At the same time Ms Jowell alerted her department's Permanent Secretary, Sir Graham Hart, to her husband's work. Sir Graham ruled that she could continue with her work in overseeing the Government's review of tobacco advertising.

The minister also wrote to Sir Robin in June, seeking his advice over whether her husband's work presented a conflict of interest. Her letter to Sir Robin was disclosed yesterday by Lord Nolan, the outgoing chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, to whom Ms Jowell had sent a copy. Initially Lord Nolan told MPs on the Public Administration Committee that he could not recall having recieved a copy of the letter, but later confirmed that he had.

SIMON SCHLUTER

Tessa Jowell: upset by Tory claims that her husband's work creates a conflict of interest

Outside the committee the Conservatives maintained their attack on the Government. Mr Maples said that Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, had made an error of judgment in allowing Ms Jowell to continue with the Government's review of tobacco advertising.

"Mr Dobson should have realised there was a potential conflict of interest," Mr Maples said. "But perhaps it is typical of him that when an unpopular decision has to be made her gets a junior minister to do it."

His remarks drew a withering response from Ms Jowell's husband. Mr Mills said: "It is mischievous to make allegations of this kind. I have not just done this by the book. I have set standards by which the book should be written."

Hague failing Opposition test, says Howe

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE former Tory Cabinet minister Geoffrey Howe accused William Hague yesterday of heading for failure in a critical test as Leader of the Opposition.

Lord Howe of Aberavon scorned the Shadow Cabinet's decision to rule out membership of a European single currency for the lifetime of this Parliament and the next. He said Mr Hague had adopted an extremist position, abandoning the party's European policy of the past 50 years.

"Refusing membership for ten years is a purpose-free piece of ideological posturing, which can satisfy neither advocates nor opponents of economic and monetary union — nor even the agnostics," Lord Howe said. "It is not in Britain's national interest. Nor is it in the interests of the Conservative Party."

He launched his attack, the strongest on the new leadership from a senior Tory so far, at a conference of Conservative Mainstream, an umbrella organisation for left-of-centre groups in the party. The conference was also addressed by the former Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, who warned the leadership not to swing to the right on economic policy.

Lord Howe, who was Shadow Chancellor when the Tories were last in Opposition, said it was vital that ejected parties rebuilt credibility. "Deciding things definitively — ruling this in or that out as absolutes — are not the reflexes of a successful Opposition. Europe now presents a crucial litmus test of the Conservatives' capacity to act as a serious alternative party of government. And so far, unhappily, it looks like a test that we are determined to fail."

He objected to the attempt by some Tory MPs to depict colleagues who supported cross-party co-operation on Europe as relics who were out of touch. "There is nothing new in the notion of common-sense cross-party partnership in support of Britain's European future. Just such a partnership came into existence when Winston Churchill founded the European Movement half a century ago."

Those who seemed determined to lead the party into isolation would have to justify the political wisdom of their course. "The burden of abandoning the party's position over the last half century must rest upon their shoulders."

Mr Clarke, in his speech, resisted the temptation to aggravate Tory differences over Europe, concentrating on domestic economic policy. But he referred to criticism in *The Times* yesterday from Norman Lamont, saying he did not recall telling his former Cabinet colleage that he looked forward to the day when the Commons became a county council.

MoD considers selling defence research agency

y Michael Evans
De nce Correspondent

TH overnment is considering option to sell the Min ry of Defence's research and evelopment establishmen which have an annual turn r of £1 billion and employ ,000 people.

A part of the strategic defe review, George Robertso the Defence Secretary, has ked for a full report on whe r it would be cost-effec e to privatise the labora es and research centres whi provide technology *brea roughs for the Armed* For

T centres — which include the yal Aircraft Establishmen at Farnborough in Ha shire and the Chemical Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down in Wiltshire — were combined into the single Defence Evaluation Research Agency (Dera) in 1995, under the previous Government.

Mr Robertson has asked the Dera management to come up with ideas that could save money, but also help the agency to generate more spin-off technology to benefit non-military industry. According to defence sources, Mr Robertson has suggested three options: to maintain the status quo, to link the laboratories *with universities and create* special science parks, or to go for some form of privatisation.

At present the MoD provides Dera with business worth about £900 million a year. Dera generates another £100 million a year from private-sector customers.

Dera, based at Farnborough, is the largest of more than 40 MoD agencies and one of the most successful. With the Armed Forces depending increasingly on advanced weapon systems, it has achieved a number of important breakthroughs including the development of new composite materials.

Mr Robertson is also examining if other MoD agencies can be privatised. Food for the Armed Services is already *provided by the private sector.* "Why shouldn't we buy boots, for example, from the private sector instead of from our military set-up?" one defence source said.

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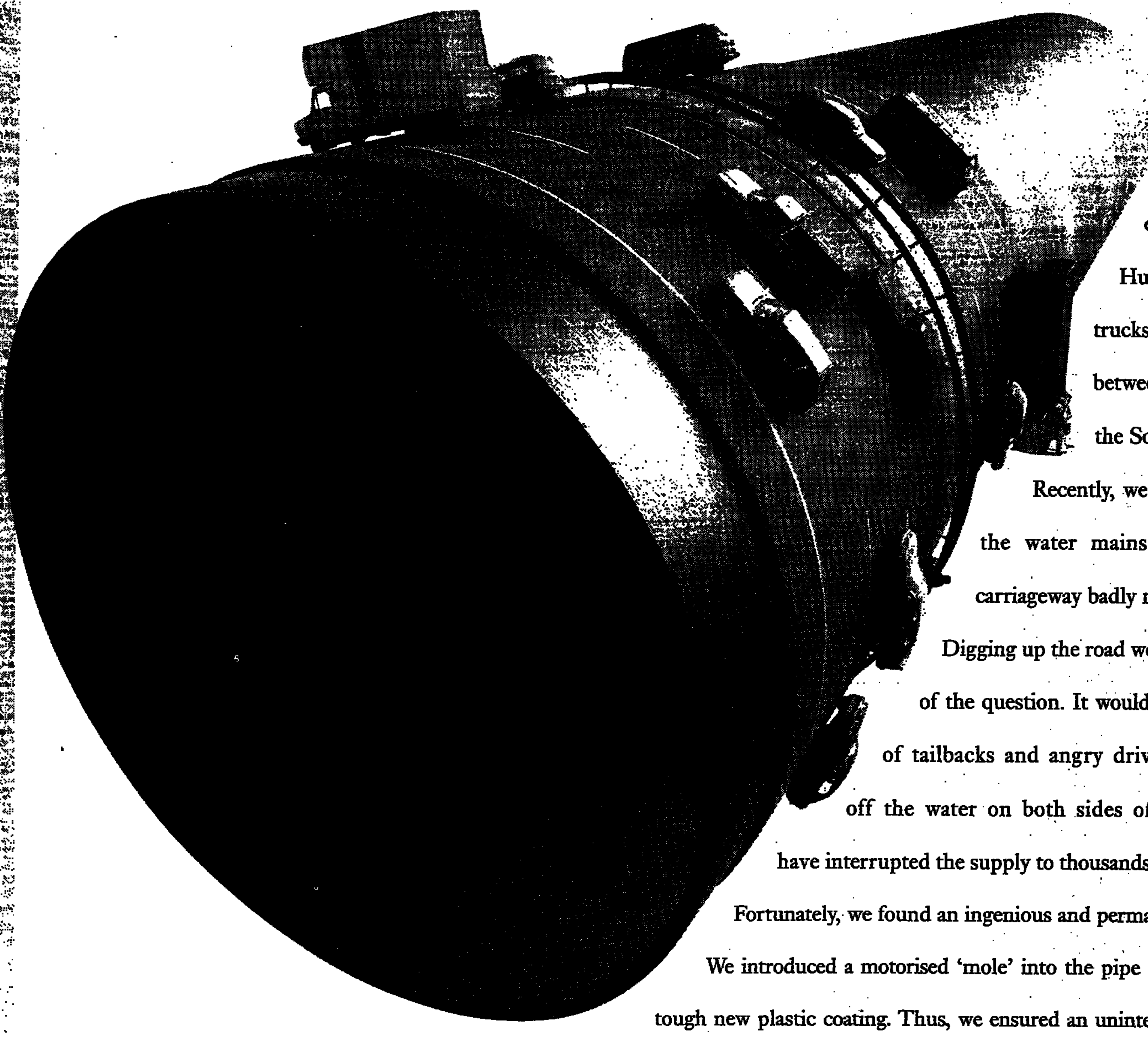

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A flow of good ideas.

Floods in Spain and Portugal drown 31

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

JOSE MANUEL RIBEIRO / REUTERS

Residents in the flooded western Spanish city of Badajoz throw away ruined possessions yesterday

AT LEAST 31 people drowned in Spain and Portugal yesterday as violent storms swept across the Iberian peninsula, causing widespread floods.

Twenty-one people drowned overnight in the western Spanish city of Badajoz and nearby towns when the River Guadiana and a number of tributaries burst their banks. The death toll was expected to rise as the emergency services and troops dug through mud and rubble looking for corpses.

Ten people were killed and 44 injured by flash floods in the southern Portuguese regions of Algarve and Alentejo. Most drowned in their homes as water rose to roof level in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Authorities in Badajoz declared three days of mourning. A city spokesman admitted that the devastated neighbourhoods had been built in narrow river valleys but said they had been designed to withstand flooding.

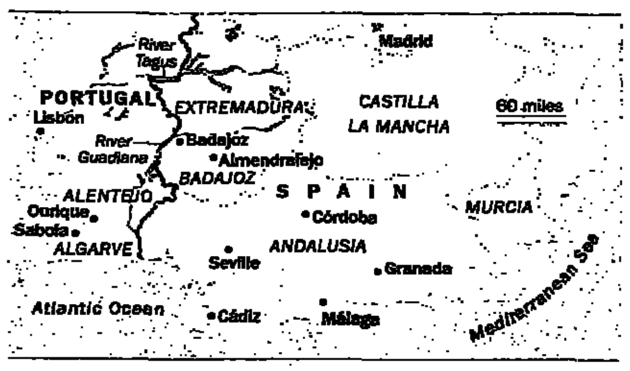
"The sudden rainfall combined with the high winds and the lack of electricity and telephones to produce this disaster," he said. Up to 5½ in of rain had fallen in parts of the city overnight. Winds had reached up to 70mph.

Most of the deaths had been caused by a 15-minute flash flood in one district, the spokesman said. Hundreds of people saved their lives by scrambling on to rooftops.

Two days of torrential rain and high winds across the peninsula have brought down road bridges and led to the derailment of an express train between Málaga and Córdoba, southern Spain. Another train crashed into a lorry stuck in mud on a crossing in the western Spanish town of Almendralejo.

More than 50 roads were blocked across Spain, including the principal ring road around Madrid. The capital suffered 70 miles of traffic jams.

The western Spanish region of Extremadura was isolated as roads were flooded, electricity supplies were cut and telephone lines came down.



Rail traffic in southern Portugal was also brought to a halt.

Fishing fleets in southern Spain and Portugal were confined to port. A cargo vessel was washed ashore near Cádiz.

Two Spanish Cabinet ministers travelled to Badajoz to assess the damage yesterday as regional authorities called for the area to be declared a disaster zone.

José Maria Aznar, the Prime Minister, postponed a trip to Latin America and said he would visit the city today. The Government promised compensation for those worst affected by the floods.

The Spanish Meteorological Office said yesterday that the storms were expected to die down over the coming days, but gave a warning that it would continue to rain heavily.

Authorities in Portugal issued warnings of further flooding along the River Tagus as numerous dams and reservoirs along its course filled to overflowing.

Malaysia bans academic talk of haze crisis

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Malaysian Government yesterday barred academics from making statements on the country's haze problem, sparking warnings from the opposition about dangers to freedom of speech.

Najib Tun Abdul Razak, the Education Minister, moved to clear up confusion over the directive from his ministry after local newspapers quoted him as saying that the ban on speaking out covers all sensitive issues.

"The directive only applies to the haze issue. Today's report is misleading, giving the impression that it is a blanket restriction," Mr Najib was quoted by the Bernama news agency as saying.

Citing a report which quoted a researcher as saying that breathing air during the haze was equivalent to smoking 40 cigarettes a day, Mr Najib said that such findings were "speculative in nature" and not scientifically proven, and could trigger alarm and distort the reputation of the country.

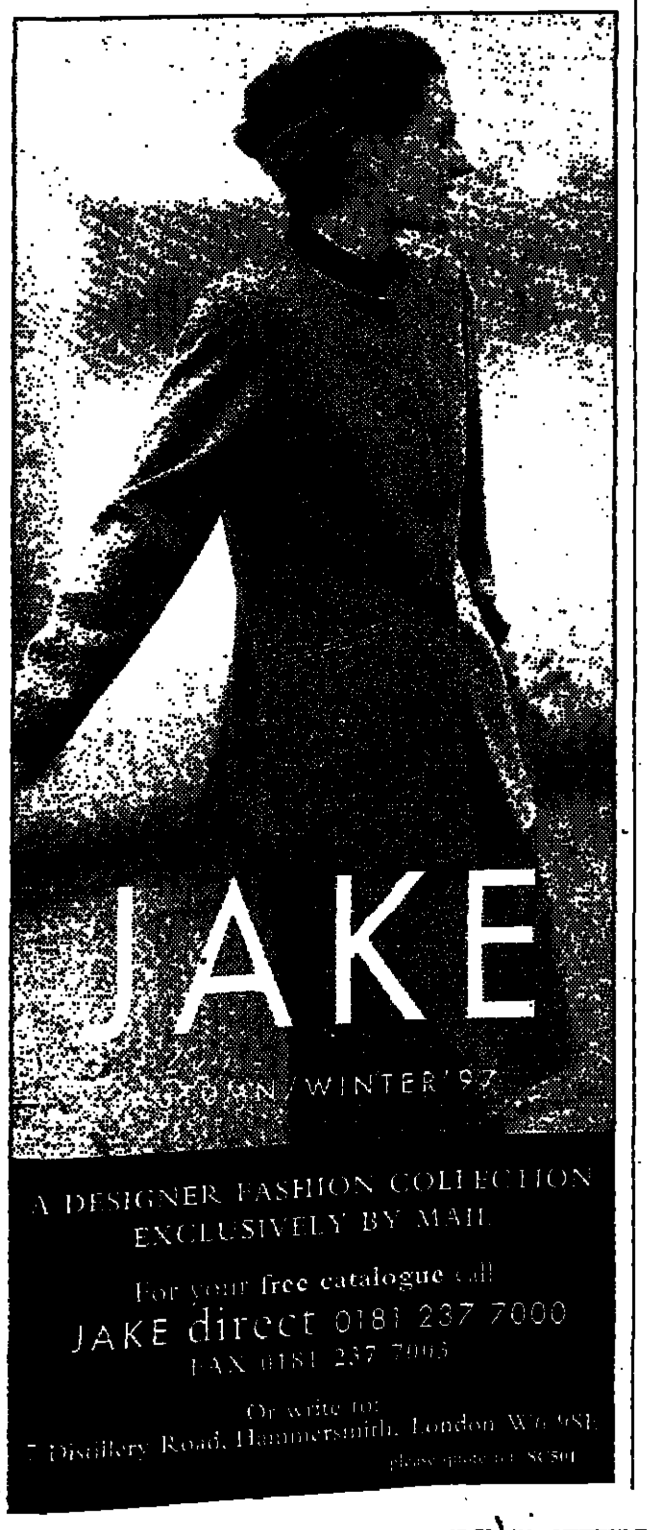
"Painting such a picture could give a negative image of Malaysia, causing a scare among Malaysians and preventing foreigners from coming to the country," he said.

Lim Kit Siang, the leader of the Opposition, described the government move as "shocking" and gave a warning of "back-pedalling on the citizen's freedom of speech".

Mr Najib's statement came as dense smog, which has blanketed much of South-East Asia for the past three months, spread to northern Australia. Strobe Talbott, the American Deputy Secretary of State, said in Jakarta last night after arriving from Australia: "They told me that, for the first time, haze from forest fires in Indonesia has now spread to Darwin" [in the Northern Territory].

In Manila, a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation regional conference was told that food shortages in Asia, Latin America and South Africa were possible if countries affected by El Niño, the weather phenomenon, did not take steps to curb its consequences.

☐ Hanoi: Army helicopters and a ragtag armada of ships rescued 900 Vietnamese fishermen who had clung to plastic bottles and pieces of wood. They had been feared lost at sea in the wake of Typhoon Linda. Another 83 were found by a rescue mission in neighbouring Cambodia. *(AP)*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BSE cow exported as fodder in Belgian blunder

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Belgian Government was engulfed in embarrassment yesterday when it emerged that the country's first cow to succumb to BSE had mistakenly been turned into animal feed which was sold to the Dutch and the Poles.

Emotion was already running high after confirmation last Friday that an animal on a farm near Namur, in the South-West, had been diagnosed with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or "mad cow" disease. Belgium had previously prided itself as being BSE-free and angrily denied claims that tainted British animal feed had been shipped into the country. Ministers and supermarkets were still reassuring a nervous public that the native case did not mean the start of an epidemic when an incredulous media reported the bungle over the cow's fate.

Instead of being incinerated, along with the 33 other animals from the herd of Jules Marechal, the infected cow had been sent to the slaughterhouse and reduced to animal feed, the Agriculture Ministry admitted. The law requires BSE-infected animals and all others in its herd to be destroyed.

Officials explained that the animal had been rushed off to the abattoir while laboratories were still analysing its brain. The vet who had reported the case to the authorities had originally thought that the animal was suffering from rabies. He was not told the true nature of the disease in time. The law allows the carcasses of animals with rabies and other diseases to be used for feed. The renderers who took in the cow reported that its remains were part of a feed shipment that was sent to The Netherlands and Poland.

Karel Pinxton, the Belgian Agriculture Minister and a leading EU campaigner for strict measures against Britain, had already come under fire this week for a ten-day delay in notifying the veterinary services and laboratories that there was a suspected case of BSE in the country. His officials last night sought to reassure Belgians that there was no risk from the animal feed, because the carcass had been rendered according to the EU's anti-BSE rules. These specify high temperatures and require all risky material to be extracted.

While the EU banned the use of animal-based feed for cattle and sheep in 1994, the product is still used in many member states for fattening pigs, poultry and fish.

☐ **Rome:** A new EU directive meant to eradicate BSE will create far more serious health risks than it eliminates, a US Food and Drug Administration official said yesterday.

The directive, effective from January 1 next year, bans products, such as gelatine-coated tablets, containing animal parts potentially infected with the disease. Virtually all American-produced medicines, and those of most other countries, would be removed from Europe's shelves.

"If you compare realities, the risk of disease is far, far less than that from not having medicines available," said Sharon Smith Holston, FDA deputy commissioner for external affairs. "Mad cow" disease posed no threat in the United States. *(AP)*

REGIS DUVIGNAU / REUTERS

Striking French lorry drivers play card games as they keep up their blockade of a fuel depot near Bordeaux

Unions split as haulage bosses inch towards deal with truckers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

LORRY drivers and haulage firms appeared last night to be inching towards a deal to end the French truckers' strike, although unions were divided and the mood on barricades across the country remained defiant.

At the end of a 14-hour overnight negotiating session, a tentative agreement was reached early yesterday on an immediate pay rise of 6 per cent and a guaranteed minimum monthly wage by 2000.

But key points of disagreement remained, including haggling over bonuses and whether ambulance and bus drivers should receive the same deal in the final accord. Some unions want an hourly rate, arguing they are often unpaid for time spent loading and waiting.

"Without question, things are getting better," said Roger Poletti, of the drivers' division of the Force Ouvrière union, while Michel Caillaud of the FNCR union predicted a deal would be hammered out "within 48 hours".

As the two sides resumed negotiations last night, the CFDT, the largest truckers' union, said that all but one demand — the extension of concessions to bus and ambulance drivers — had been met. But Marc Blondel, national leader of the Force Ouvrière, was markedly less optimistic, claiming that rank-and-file union reaction to the outline deal was "not enthusiastic, to say the least". Insisting that the tentative agreement was "contradictory and ambiguous", M Blondel said he was "almost certain the response from the Force Ouvrière people will be negative".

The more radical Communist-led CGT said it would not sign the accord after it was "massively" rejected in outline yesterday by grassroots members manning the roadblocks. The union insisted that demands for a minimum monthly wage of Fr10,000 (£1,000) for 200 hours work should be met immediately.

Hundreds of foreign lorries are still trapped by the strikers' blockades, and the British Road Haulage Association said it would consider taking legal action if the situation is not brought to an end rapidly. "If the [European] Commission are unwilling or unable to challenge the French strike action, then the RHA will take up that challenge," a spokesman said.

With the Channel ports blocked, the Channel Tunnel became heavily congested as lorry drivers sought to get out of France before Sunday, when heavy-goods vehicles are banned from the roads under French law.

Haulage groups have called on the Government to ask France to lift that ban during today's Anglo-French summit.

☐ Bratislava: There was traffic chaos as irate lorry drivers blocked the largest road border crossing between Slovakia and Poland to protest at slow customs processing and poor hygiene facilities along the way. About 300 lorries on each side took part in the protest. *(Reuters)*

WORLD IN BRIEF

Coalition strife as Thai PM resigns

Bangkok: As Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Thailand's embattled Prime Minister, prepared to leave office, government and opposition politicians were at loggerheads with each claiming enough seats to form the next coalition.

Amid the confusion the only sure fact was that Mr Chavalit, who had resigned after being accused of failing to solve the country's economic woes, would step down. His office said he would go at midnight local time.

As he prepared to leave, his Government announced that Thailand's once booming economy would shrink by 1 to 1.5 per cent this year. Formerly among the world's most prosperous, it grew 6.4 per cent in 1996. *(Reuters)*

Korea farms chief executed

Tokyo: So Kwan-Hi, 71, North Korea's Agriculture Secretary, and 17 others were publicly executed in Pyongyang in September after open trials, according to tourists who had spoken to "witnesses". So was accused of "misguiding agriculture policy". Despite the North's food shortages, the report was greeted with scepticism in South Korea, where it was felt any executions would have been in secret. *(AFP)*

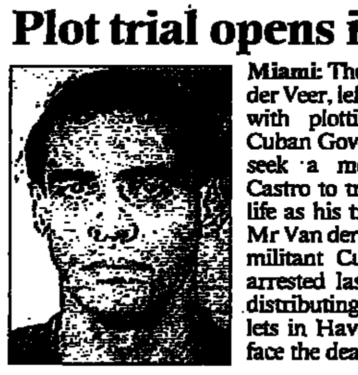
Mir crew in space walk

Korolyov: Two Russian cosmonauts made a space walk lasting more than six hours to install a new solar panel on the ageing Mir space station, right, to boost its energy supplies. Flight Commander Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov, the engineer, also worked on an air purification system and tried to mend a leaking hatch. They were given support from inside Mir by David Wolf, the Nasa astronaut. *(Reuters)*

Oil pollutes Czech river

Prague: Cleanup workers rushed to erect barriers on the River Vltava at Roztoky, just north of the Czech Republic's capital, in an attempt to prevent a four-mile oil slick from spreading further downstream. Police, alerted by a helicopter crew who had traced the source of the spill to a sewer just north of the city, were searching the Bohnice suburb to find, and stem, the leak. *(AP)*

Plot trial opens in Havana



Miami: The lawyer for Walter Van der Veer, left, the American charged with plotting to overthrow the Cuban Government, said he would seek a meeting with President Castro to try to protect his client's life as his trial opened in Havana. Mr Van der Veer, 52, a member of a militant Cuban exile group, was arrested last year on a charge of distributing anti-government leaflets in Havana. If guilty, he could face the death penalty. *(AP)*

Hunter and hunted die

Moscow: A Russian hunter and a bear are thought to have killed each other in a struggle in Siberia. Searchers trying to find Yuri Smakotin discovered his body next to the carcass of a shot brown bear about 60 miles from the village of Kukan in the Far Eastern Khabarovsk region. *(AP)*

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Baghdad using talks to hide arms equipment

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ has taken advantage of talks with a United Nations delegation to start hiding potential missile and biological weapons technology from the UN's monitoring system.

The Security Council met yesterday to discuss a complaint from Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, that Baghdad had destroyed UN cameras, turned off lights in installations under surveillance and moved "dual-use" technology meant to be kept under UN seal.

Mr Butler said the equipment included gyroscope rotor balancing equipment that could be used to make prohibited long-range missiles. He also gave a warning that, once removed from UN monitoring, Iraq could use such items as fermenters to produce seed stocks for biological weapons in "a matter of hours".

Iraq last night admitted shifting some equipment but said it did so because of the danger of an attack by the United States.

"We are going to put the equipment back to its previous positions and we will invite UN monitoring teams to see it and be sure about it," said Muhammad al-Sahaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister. He claimed that UN surveillance cameras at the al-Mutasim missile range had been destroyed when an engine for a permitted short-range missile had exploded.

The UN monitoring operation has 120 cameras spread over more than 20 sites to observe "dual-use" equipment that could be used in weapons as well as for civilian purposes. Mr al-Sahaf insisted that Iraq would not use the equipment in any prohibited activity.

UN weapons inspections were obstructed again yesterday as talks dragged on for a second day between Iraqi officials and a UN delegation sent to persuade Baghdad to drop its ban on Americans working as UN inspectors. The three-man UN delegation was still awaiting a response to a letter it delivered to Iraq from the UN Secretary-General demanding renewed compliance with UN weapons inspections.

Many at UN headquarters were beginning to wonder whether Iraq had succeeded in trapping the organisation into negotiations about the future of the weapons monitoring regime, which is tied to the lifting of the UN sanctions.

Mr Butler has postponed UN surveillance flights until the UN delegation returns to brief the Security Council on Monday. But Iraq was pressing to prolong the diplomatic contacts even further, in an apparent effort to head off any reprisals by the United States and its Gulf War allies.

Iraq called on friendly organisations in Arab countries to prepare for "solidarity demonstrations" against "American hegemony" on Monday. The Arab world has kept mostly silent on the confrontation, with only Sudan and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, vocal in their support for Baghdad.

Iraqi papers 'kept in Arafat embassy'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Palestinian Authority Embassy in Baghdad is being used as a hiding place for documents about Iraq's build-up of chemcical and nuclear weapons, Iraqi opposition sources told *The Jerusalem Post*.

The sources said that diplomatic immunity kept the embassy, reportedly Yassir Arafat's house in Baghdad, out of bounds and the documents beyond the reach of United Nations weapons inspectors.

During the 1990-91 Gulf War Mr Arafat supported President Saddam Hussein of Iraq in the conflict with Kuwait. The action lost the Palestinian leader valuable support in the wider Arab world and led to the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from Kuwait.

This week schoolchildren mobilised by the PLO from the Dehaishe refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem have been demonstrating in support of Saddam.

The documents relate to the purchase of raw materials required for Iraq's manufacture and deployment of weapons of mass destruction, a senior but unnamed figure in the underground movement to overthrow Saddam claimed. He attributed his knowledge to "sources inside Iraqi intelligence".

Nabil Amr, Mr Arafat's political adviser, has refused to comment.

The paper said that Mr Arafat's house in the Jadiriya district of Bagdhad was recently designated as the official Palestinian Authority Embassy. It quoted the Iraqi sources as saying: "The material is in Yassir Arafat's house. It is a fact. We have had agents at the site who could see that the embassy building is used to hide documents."

Sex case judge urged to quit

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Parliament yesterday demanded the resignation of Belgium's judge on the European Court of Justice because he had authorised the early release from prison of Marc Dutroux, the man accused of kidnapping and murdering four girls in the country's paedophile scandal.

The 246-122 vote by the full parliament carries no legal force but adds to the pressure on the Government of Jean-Luc Dehaene to take tougher action against officials held responsible for the series of errors that allowed Dutroux to remain free to commit his alleged crimes.

Melchior Wathelet was Minister of Justice in 1992 when he allowed Dutroux to be released after serving only five years of a 13-year sentence for kidnapping and raping children. Dutroux was arrested last year and charged with imprisoning six girls and murdering four of them. The investigation into an alleged paedophile ring continues. The parliament's motion said Mr Wathelet had not acted illegally in ordering the early release, but this had "nonetheless had dreadful consequences for which he must accept moral and political responsibility".

M Dehaene rejected calls to punish Mr Wathelet and last month he appointed him to a fresh term as Belgium's judge in Luxembourg. Campaigners say the government failed to punish those responsible for judicial and police bungling.

DMITRI LOVETSKY / AP

A young visitor on board the cruiser *Aurora*, whose gunshot signalled the start of the revolution in St Petersburg 80 years ago today

Old Bolsheviks reclaim new Russia for a day

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THOUSANDS of diehard Communists, still wedded to the ideals of Marx and Lenin, will reclaim control of Russia's cities for a few hours today, 80 years since the Bolshevik Revolution swept their movement to power.

Carrying red banners proclaiming the glory of the proletariat, they will mark the day when Lenin and his Bolshevik fighters overthrew the provisional Government housed in the Winter Palace in St Petersburg.

Despite the collapse of the Soviet Union six years ago and the apparent victory of the free market and Western-style democracy, Communist leaders are eager to prove that the ideals of the Great October Socialist Revolution are still alive. Lenin's embalmed body still has pride of place in Red Square. In St Petersburg the cruiser *Aurora*, which fired the first shot in the revolution, remains a museum.

Keeping the socialist dream alive is the unenviable task of Gennadi Zyuganov, the solid but uninspiring Communist Party leader, who was defeated by President Yeltsin in last year's election. "We are a modern party which takes the best from the past but looks to the future," he said this week, announcing the opening of the Communist Party website on the Internet. However, Communists are seriously divided, between hardliners who advocate a new revolution and moderates who supported a recent compromise with President Yeltsin in parliament.

Viktor Anpilov, a rabble-rousing revolutionary who heads the orthodox Communist splinter group Working Russia, declared compromise impossible: "The only solution is to give up one's life for the freedom of the people. Socialism or death. Otherwise, I am not worthy to be called a man."

Despite his threats, the police predicted that the hundreds of marches across Russia would go off peacefully.

Communist Party members now number only about half a million, most of them over 50. A Moscow newspaper asked a group of teenagers outside McDonald's if they knew what today's holiday was for. The answers included "a victory day", "army day", "some kind of coup" and "Hallowe'en".

Leading article, page 23

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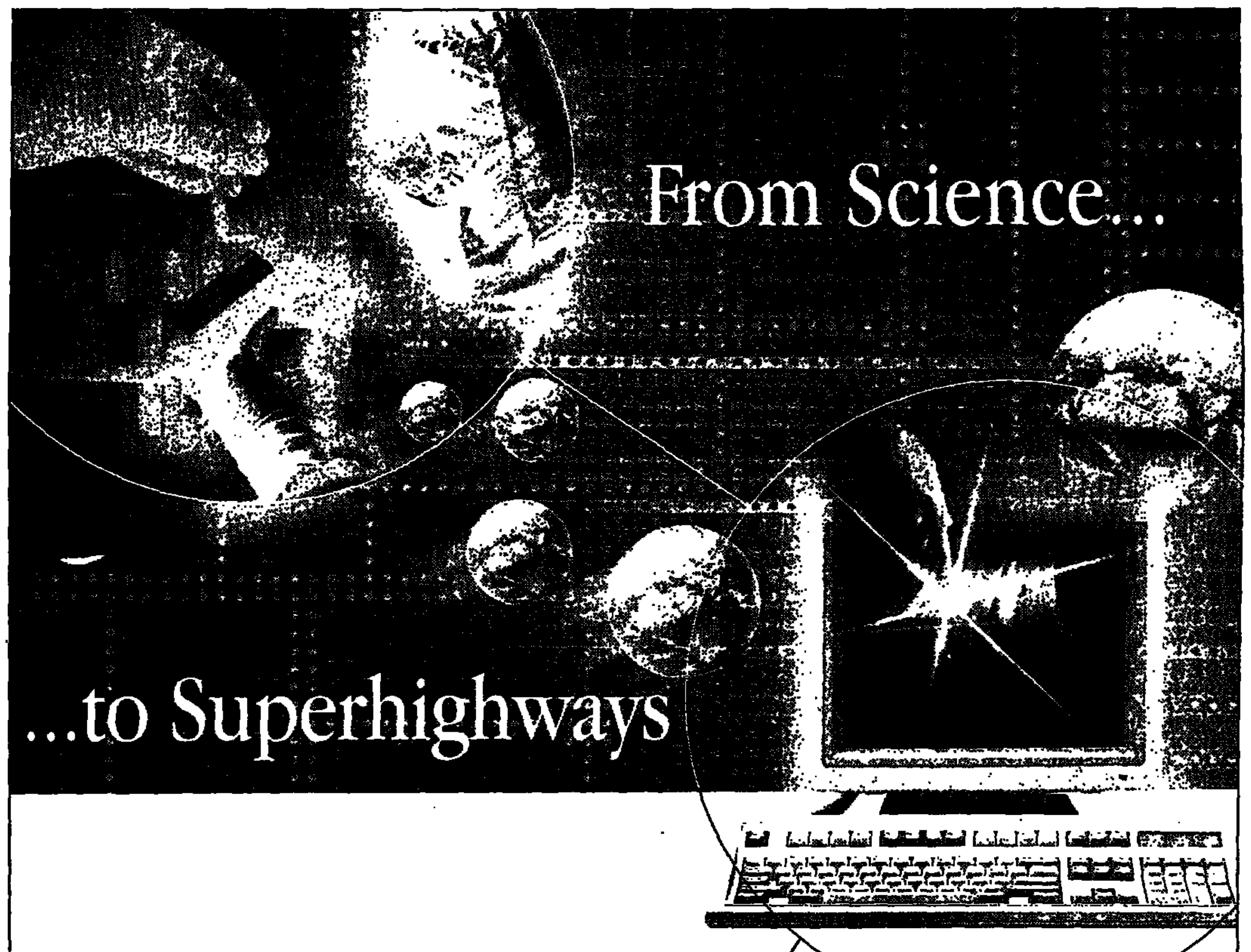

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China triumphs in damming of mighty Yangtze

An engineering marvel has lost wildlife and heritage, writes James Pringle

THE last massive rock will drop into place tomorrow on the controversial Three Gorges Dam on the mighty Yangtze River, blocking the main course of the 3,900-mile waterway.

Chinese leaders will proudly survey the £15 billion project which they hope will enhance *their own and their country's* world image. "By any standard, the damming of the world's third longest river will be a dramatic event," one foreign expert said yesterday. Pan Jiazhen, a senior official on the dam project, said: "It is truly an overwhelming challenge."

The event will be broadcast live on Chinese television. River traffic will be diverted *into a side channel.*

Some Chinese worry about the dam and the creation of a 400-mile lake, its effects on sedimentation, the evacuation of more than a million people from dozens of towns and villages to be submerged, vulnerability to an attack in the event of war, the loss of wildlife habitat and archaeological heritage. Superstitious Chinese fret about the effects *on the "river dragon", the* spirit of the Yangtze itself.

Nevertheless, many glory in the creation of one of the world's biggest hydroelectric projects that has cheered overseas contractors. "Build the Three Gorges Dam, Pride of the Chinese Race" reads a Maoist-type slogan floating above the site at Sandouping in Hubei province. When I first visited the site ten years ago, Chinese officials said nothing about pre-Communist plans for the river. Now, despite expressing a caution in their judgment, they emphasise that Dr Sun Yat-sen, the founder of modern China, first proposed the project in 1919. Chairman Mao, who swam in the Yangtze in 1966 to launch the Cultural Revolution, was keen on the dam, writing a lyrical poem about what was to be one of the toughest engineering tasks anywhere.

The benefits of the project are power generation and flood control. The dam will generate 84.6 trillion watts a year, equal to 8 per cent of China's power output last year, when it is fully operational in 2009: this will open up Sichuan and the nation's interior, including the huge city of Chongqing, to develop*ment. The dam* will also prevent flooding which has, historically, been a source of dread. A big Yangtze flood in 1954 left 30,000 dead.

The downside includes the loss of Chinese heritage, extolled by poets such as Du Fu. Even though it is often a sad heritage, the thousands of near-naked "trackers" who for centuries hauled junks upriver with plaited bamboo ropes while singing mournful songs will be missed. Temples that represent the "Three Kingdoms" period, medicinal plants in the botanical paradise and rare wildlife will disappear. Critics of the project would have preferred to have seen a series of smaller hydroelectric dams build on the Yangtze and its tributaries.

When the project was approved by China's parliament in 1992, more than a third opposed it or abstained, an unheard-of event in the rubber-stamp assembly.

Historically, the Yangtze has not been as fearsome as *the Yellow River, known as* "China's Sorrow" because of the huge numbers it had killed through flooding. Last month, it was dammed at Xiaolangdi in what some claim was a secret operation. But the flow of the Yellow River had been diminished because of extraction of water for irrigation. "It reminds me of the Aral Sea [an ecological disaster because of Soviet irrigation schemes]," an Italian engineer on the Yellow River told me last year.

The Three Gorges Dam is described as the "pet project" — some say even the obsession — of Li Peng, China's unpopular Prime Minister, who is an engineer. It was Mr Li who ordered troops to crush the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square in 1989. "Li badly needs the project to succeed in order to improve his image in China," noted a diplomat.

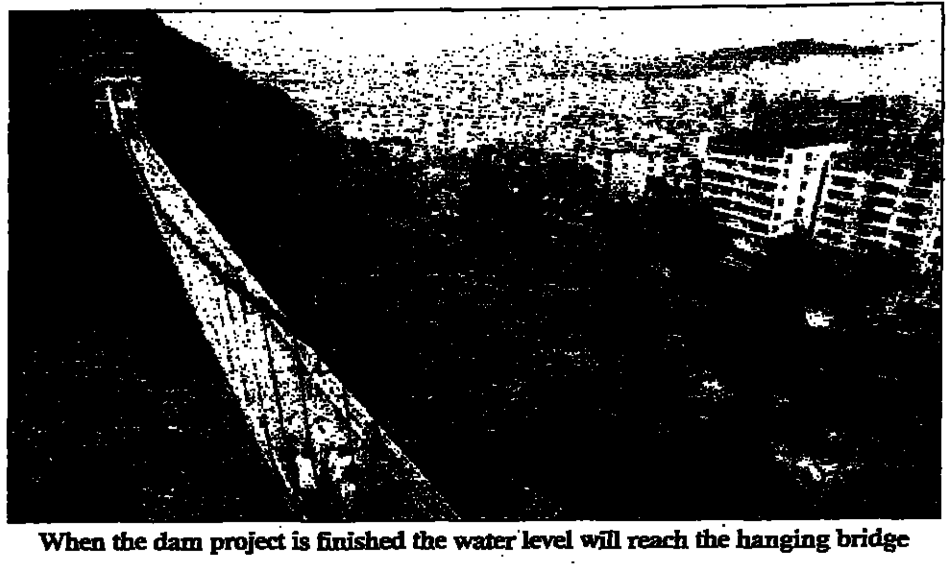
But an outspoken critic, Dai Qing, a former rocket engineer and now an environmentalist, claims that the Three Gorges Dam is "not an engineering project, but a disaster which should be stopped immediately". She said 1.98 million people would have to be resettled on too little land, and that the wave of relocations would aggravate soil erosion and pollution problems.

The environmentalist, who spent eight months in jail after Tiananmen, has accused the Government of silencing public debate on the dam since 1989, when it banned a book written by her and others critical of the project.

"I don't think the engineers are more clever than nature," she said. "I have evidence that they have tried to conceal information about sedimentation in the artificial lake to be created. They will build this dam, then go away for a new contract and dirty another river."

XINHUA

The damming of the 3,900-mile Yangtze will be completed tomorrow when the last boulder is put into place. The river will be rerouted



When the dam project is finished the water level will reach the hanging bridge

Mugabe denied £150m to seize white farms

From Jan Raath
in Harare

BRITAIN has rejected demands by the Zimbabwean Government for £150 million to help towards the confiscation of nearly half the country's white-owned farms — part of a high-speed programme to resettle black farmers.

The British High Commission here yesterday said that Harare had been told: "The programme of rapid land acquisition that now seems to be envisaged in Zimbabwe would be impossible for Britain to support." The rebuff comes after a meeting two weeks ago in Edinburgh between Tony Blair and President Mugabe.

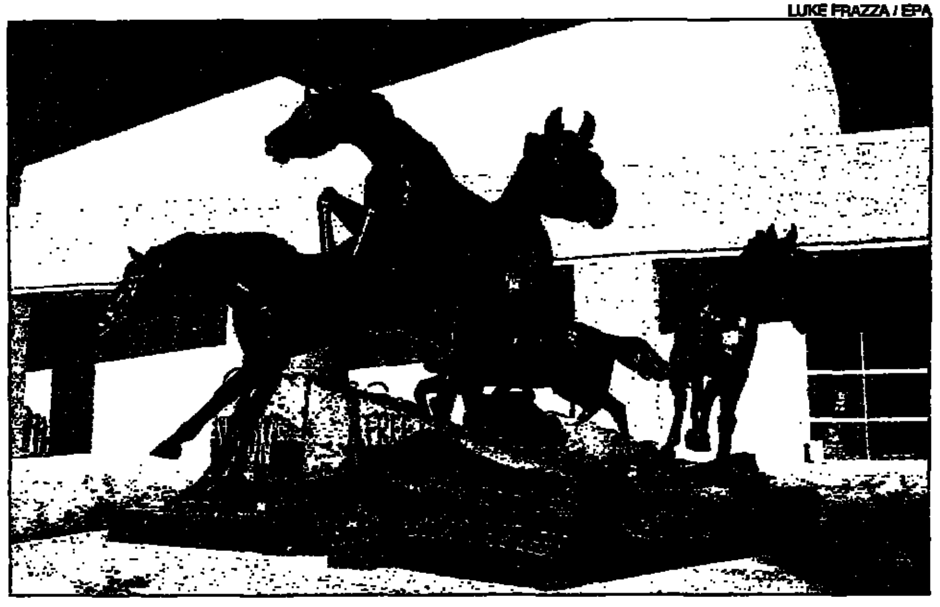
The Zimbabwean leader has promised to seize 1,800 farms covering 11.9 million acres in a "one-man, one-farm" policy that would force farmers with multiple holdings to sell all but one. There would be no compensation, but farm improvements would be taken into account, he said. Constitutional safeguards would be abolished if they stood in the way of his "revolutionary land reforms".

Yesterday's High Commission statement said that "it would not help the poor in Zimbabwe if land was acquired in a way that undermined agriculture or investor confidence" — a reference to fears that such a massive expropriation would wreck the country's commercial farming sector, the cornerstone of the economy.

George Bush library opens

A statue by Veryl Goodnight, called *The Day the Wall Came Down* and made from pieces of the Berlin Wall and bronze horses, dominates the front of the George Bush library, which the former President dedicated yesterday. At a ceremony attended by President Clinton and former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, as well as Nancy Reagan, Mr Bush, 73, opened the library *and museum at the Texas* A&M University campus (Tom Rhodes writes). John Major and Lech Walesa, the former Polish President, were among the guests.

LUKE FRAZZA / EPA



New elm is resistant to disease

From Tunku Varadarajan
in New York

AFTER 60 years of research, spanning three generations of botanists, scientists in America have developed an elm tree resistant to Dutch elm disease, the fungus that has *wiped out more than 95 per* cent of the country's elms since its arrival there in 1930.

The new tree, named the Valley Forge elm, has been bred by the United States National Arboretum in Glenn Dale, Maryland. Authorities there say the tree will be available in 2000, when it will become the first American elm to be widely planted in more than seven decades. Scientists said there was no reason why the elm could not be grown in Britain.

With the success of the arboretum's experiments, Denny Townsend, a tree geneticist, *named the new tree* in honour of George Washington's troops who overcame heavy odds to survive the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge, in Philadelphia.

Chirac urged to keep pressure on Nigeria

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

TONY BLAIR will today warn President Chirac that France should not try to take advantage of sanctions against Nigeria or offer General Sani Abacha any respite from the *pressure over human rights* and democracy.

Mr Blair, who failed at the recent Edinburgh summit to persuade Commonwealth leaders to impose any immediate new sanctions, is to raise British concern that Paris will be tempted to bolster relations with General Abacha, Nigeria's military ruler, in return for a new emphasis on learning French in the West African country.

France is bound by the European Union sanctions adopted in 1995, which ban the sale of arms to the Government, deny visas to armed *forces personnel, suspend development* aid, and cut high-level visits. However, in clear breach of this last provision, President Chirac met General Abacha a year later at the French-speaking countries' summit in Burkina Fasso.

The general has attempted to play Paris off against London by announcing last December that French would *be introduced in all Nigerian* schools as the first official foreign language. Although English is the main language of Africa's largest country, all of Nigeria's immediate neighbours are Francophone.

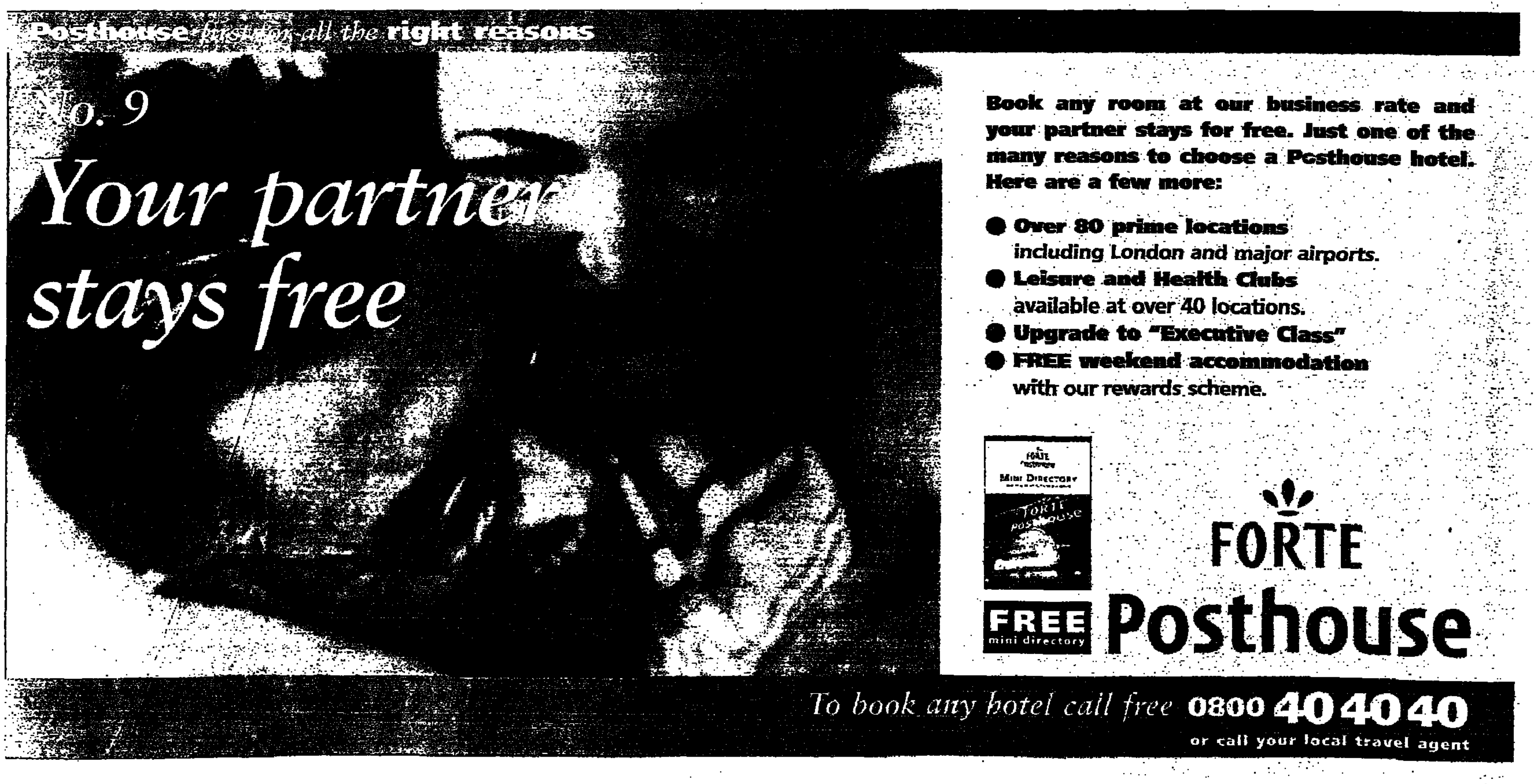
Africa will be one of the main topics in today's Canary Wharf summit with M Chirac and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister. Britain and France are attempting to set up an African peacekeeping force to intervene in regional conflicts, and in February a British platoon is to take part in a joint mission in Senegal, a former French colony.

Official attempts to bolster a common line in Africa have been undermined by lingering resentment over the linguistic effects of the civil war in former Zaire, where France long championed the late President Mobutu against the largely Anglophone insurgents.

M Chirac arrived yesterday for the summit and went *immediately to Buckingham* Palace for an audience with the Queen. He and M Jospin then attended a Downing Street reception to launch an autumn season of French theatre in London, and stayed on for a working dinner.

Today the three will also discuss Bosnia and Iraq, and the forthcoming jobs summit in Luxembourg where the British and French government positions are far apart.

Mr Blair will repeat his reassurance that Britain will play the honest broker over economic and monetary union when it presides over crucial *meetings during the British* EU presidency. If the truckers' dispute in France is not settled, he will demand immediate relief for British drivers trapped in the blockades.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America pins its faith on Chinese remedy

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE ancient Chinese art of acupuncture entered America's medical mainstream yesterday after an independent panel of experts endorsed the practice as an effective cure for many ailments.

Convened by the National Institutes of Health, the chief American medical body, it concluded that the custom was a highly successful remedy.

More than one million Americans rely on acupuncture, the stimulation of certain points on or under the skin with ultrafine needles, to relieve ailments from headaches and bowel disorders to strokes and arthritis. It is also used to relieve pain and nausea during pregnancy and surgery to chemotherapy and dentistry.

The art, which originated in China at least 2,000 years ago, has been slow to gain acceptance from the medical establishment in the West, not least because traditional Chinese explanations were based on the concepts of *yin* and *yang*, the body's opposing forces.

But in its report the group of 12 experts cited growing evidence of biological effects induced by acupuncture. There is considerable proof, for example, that the practice causes the release of natural pain-relieving substances such as endorphins and hormones in the nervous system.

The World Health Organisation estimates that about 10,000 people practise acupuncture in the United States.

Critics of the art, who refer to it as "quackpuncture", said presentations to the panel could not have formed a reasonable consensus as no opponents had been invited to give their views.

Mysteries persist over death of Mexico drug lord

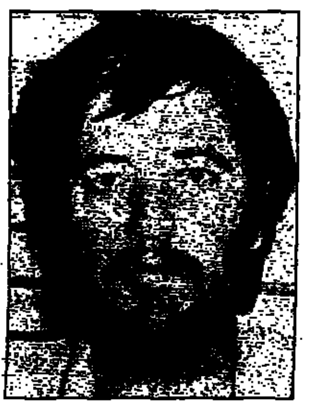
FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

WHEN a fugitive Mexican drug trafficker died last July after plastic surgery and liposuction to alter his appearance, the circumstances of his demise sparked a national mystery.

Was it really the body of Amado Carrillo Fuentes on the operating table, or had he fabricated his own death to escape a nationwide manhunt? And what happened to the three doctors who allegedly performed the botched eight-hour operation?

The first mystery ended when forensic scientists and American drug agents, who for years had been tailing Carrillo, Mexico's top drug trafficker, positively identified his body from dental records. But some refused to believe that Carrillo, 41, known as "Lord of the Skies" because of his method of transporting cocaine in airliners, was gone for good.

The second mystery was cleared up this week when police discovered the remains of at least one of the missing surgeons, Jaime Godoy Singh.


Carrillo: he was the top trafficker in Mexico

inside a cement-filled oil drum found by the side of the Mexico City-Acapulco motorway. His body was found with two other corpses, who may have been part of the medical team. In a sign of a mafia hit, their fingernails had been pulled out and their bodies burnt. They had been blindfolded. Two were strangled and one shot.

Authorities are so far unable to explain who might have killed the doctor and his companions, and why. Some speculate that allies of the dead drug lord may have been responsible, in revenge for the death of their boss. Carrillo died shortly surgery when someone gave him an overdose of a sleeping medication. Investigators are trying to determine whether the drug was administered negligently or with intent to kill. Alternatively, rival drug traffickers may have arranged his death, and then killed the surgeons to cover up the plot.

Authorities said three doctors turned up at a Mexico City maternity hospital last summer to perform the operation on Carrillo, who registered under a false name. Since his death, dozens of people connected to his Juárez cartel have been killed, either in turf battles or vendettas, authorities say.

Some Mexicans attribute the doctors' deaths to Carrillo himself, still convinced that the drug lord has not deserted the Mexican skies forever. Rumours were fuelled this week when the Chilean newspaper *La Segunda* reported that Carrillo was alive, and collaborating with the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

AP

Robert Latimer with his daughter Tracy, who was born with cerebral palsy

Canadian farmer jailed for killing disabled daughter

FROM DAVID CRARY IN TORONTO

A CANADIAN farmer who killed his severely disabled daughter was convicted of second-degree murder yesterday. The case has provoked nationwide debate over mercy killing.

The judge in Battleford, Saskatchewan, said Robert Latimer faces a mandatory life sentence, without a chance for parole for ten years. The jury nonetheless recommended parole after a year.

In October 1993, while his wife and three other children were at church, Latimer carried his sleeping daughter Tracy, 12, from her bed to his pick-up truck, then piped carbon monoxide into the cab.

Tracy was born with cerebral palsy. She could not walk, talk or feed herself. She had numerous operations on her back, hips and legs.

By late 1993, Tracy was due for another major hip operation. Her mother, Lara, was convinced the girl faced a life of constant pain. She told the court: "I said to him, it would be better for Tracy if she died."

Latimer, 44, initially told police that Tracy died in her sleep, but later confessed to killing her.

As the foreman read the verdict yesterday Mrs Latimer jumped from her seat and screamed, "No, no, no," before breaking into tears. Latimer rushed from the dock to tell her, "It's all right."

Latimer was convicted of second-degree murder in 1994 and jailed for life. Canada's Supreme Court ordered a new trial because prosecutors had improperly surveyed prospective jurors on their views about mercy killing and abortion.

The proceedings have been followed closely by lobby groups for the disabled, who fiercely oppose any leniency for Latimer.

Catherine Freeze, former head of Ontario's human rights commission, says widespread sympathy for Latimer has dismayed disabled people.

Ms Freeze, who uses a wheelchair, describes Latimer as "the product of a social environment that greatly devalues the life of people with disability".

To many Canadians, the case has demonstrated the need for Parliament to address the issue of mercy killing. Advocates of reform argue that Canada's homicide laws, which carry a mandatory sentence of at least 25 years in prison, are too harsh for cases where compassion may have been a factor.

Arthur Schafer, an ethics professor at the University of Manitoba, had proposed a new category of crime — "compassionate homicide" — that would allow discretionary sentencing.

Latimer had been free on bail for all but two days since his arrest four years ago. *(AP)*

Police in Manhattan turn to pedal power

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S police, driven to distraction by cyclists who weave in an out of traffic lanes and career down crowded pavements, are setting up a special "cops on bikes" unit. Beginning today hundreds of officers on 21-speed Fuji mountain bicycles will patrol Manhattan's streets.

According to Michael Ansbro, the assistant chief of New York's traffic control division, mobility is the key. "The officers on bicycles can double back where a patrol car can't. And if they see a bicycle doing something wrong, where a cop couldn't run after them or a car couldn't go after them, they can catch them."

The new "mounted" unit will also protect the interests of the city's cyclists, an increasingly vocal constituency with articulate lobby groups, newsletters and Internet websites. Transportation Alternatives, a pressure group, calculates there are more than 100,000 cyclists on New York's streets every day, up from 20,000 five years ago.

Republican spending spree

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

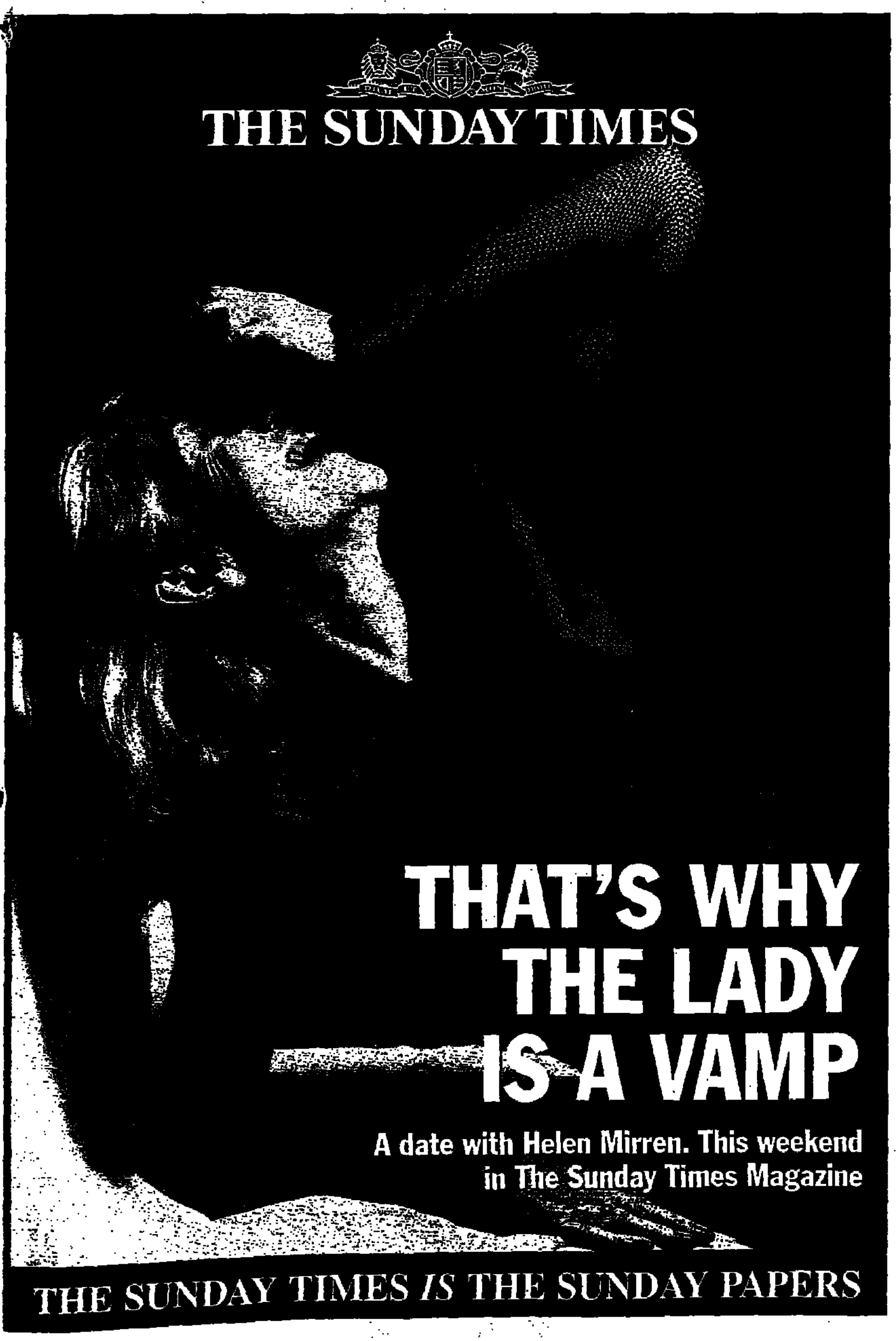
THE Republicans outspent the Democrats by five to one in this week's biggest elections, in a pattern which may show the damage wrought to the Democrats by the White House fundraising row, and which may prove a harbinger of the parties' financial firepower in next year's crucial congressional polls.

Republican groups spent $5 million (£3 million) in New York, New Jersey and Virginia, more than five times the sum spent by Democrats, helping their candidates to sweep the board in the highest-profile races among this week's host of local elections. In Virginia, Republicans spent $2 million to fund Jim Gilmore's successful bid for the governorship, compared to the Democrats' $463,100.

Democrats have been hampered by the continuing fundraising row surrounding President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore, who are accused of using the White House to raise party money, and the national committee, alleged to have sought illegal foreign contributions. But congressional Republicans also risk public censure for scuppering the only serious attempt to reform the much-abused campaign finance laws.

Mr Clinton now faces a tough battle as the House of Representatives heads for a cliffhanger vote on whether to give him "fast-track" authority to negotiate trade deals.

The Senate, which is expected to give overwhelming support for the fast-track plan, voted on Wednesday to begin debate on the Bill. But passage will also depend on the House, where — despite months of lobbying — support for the Bill is much more precarious than the White House expected.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Right: Burgundy, fawn and bottle green striped coat, £245 by Whistles, at selected branches nationwide. 0171-487 4484

Far right: A French take on the schoolgirl look: grey tie asymmetrical button coat, £420 by Ter et Bantine at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge SW1. 0171-235 5000. Yellow tights, £1.99 by Jonathan Aston from department stores nationwide. 0116-286 2388

Centre: The perfect car coat: camel asymmetrical button coat, £100 by Warehouse, 19-21 Argyll Street, London W1. 0171-278 3491. Purple tights, £4.99 by Jonathan Aston

Bottom: Black knee-length coat with placket front, £340 by Sportmax, 32 Sloane Street, London SW1. 0171-287 3434. Orange tights, £1.99 by Jonathan Aston

Photographer: ALEX SARGINSON

Stylist: Deborah Brett

Hair: Raphael at Michaeljohn Management

Makeup: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management

Model: Annica at Select

Winter's objects of desire

After last year's dalliance with maxi-coats, this winter sees a shorter look with a schoolgirl twist, says Style Editor **Grace Bradberry**

The fashion industry may lump autumn/winter together as one homogeneous mass, and a few committed fashion-philes may actually shop like that, rushing out in August to buy "key pieces", but for most of us it works somewhat differently. Caught in the throes of dire need or snared by instinctive desire, we buy useless items which we love, and useful items about which we feel lukewarm.

Identify with this description of consumer ineptitude? Then the chances are that you still haven't bought a winter coat. Waking on a November morning, September's official fashion dilemma — should I or shouldn't I buy a micro-mini — now seems more startlingly irrelevant than ever. Spike heels have lost a smidgen of their desirability. A thick, warm, neutral overcoat, however, has become a truly beautiful thing.

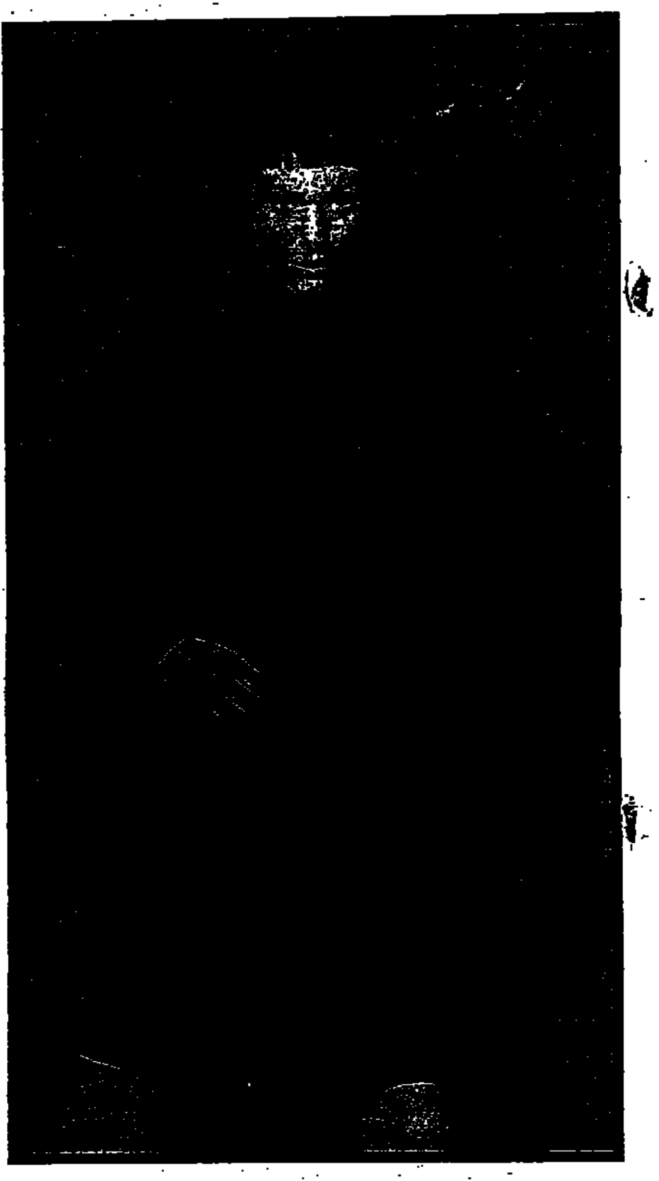
After last year's dalliance with maxi-coats and epaulettes, this winter sees an altogether more shrunken look. The traditional crombie-style coat is back, but with a schoolgirl twist. The silhouette is sparse and lean, but if designers have skimped on quantity they've made up for it in quality. The glossies seem agreed that *the* coat of the season is a slim-line, belted wool/angora number by Jil Sander. The temperature drops several degress, however, when one reads the price — a glacial £2,095.

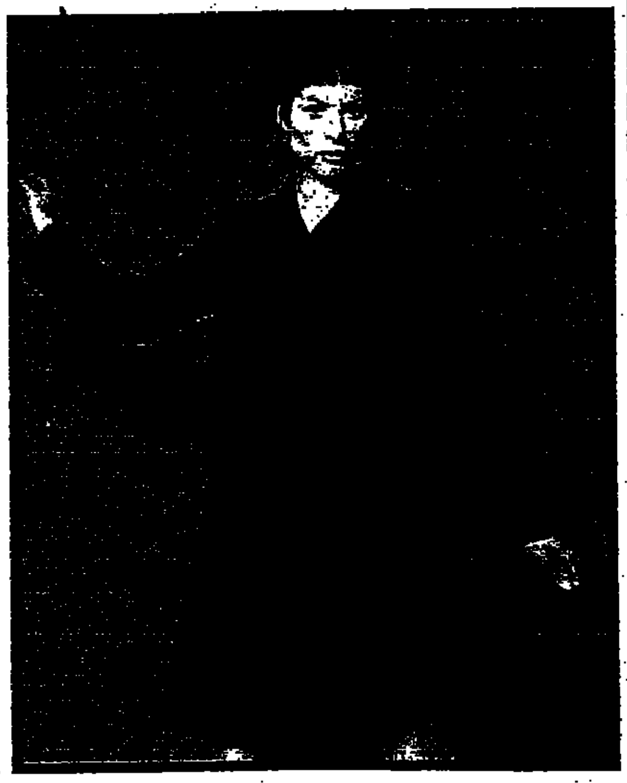
But you can get the general idea without getting the credit-card bill. Look for understated silhouettes that are nevertheless body aware. They should hint at curves, without jutting too obviously in and out. Look out for boxy shapes, landing just above or just below the knee. Shoulders should be neat and narrow, or just slightly too broad, so they fall off at either side in a variation on this season's slouch look.

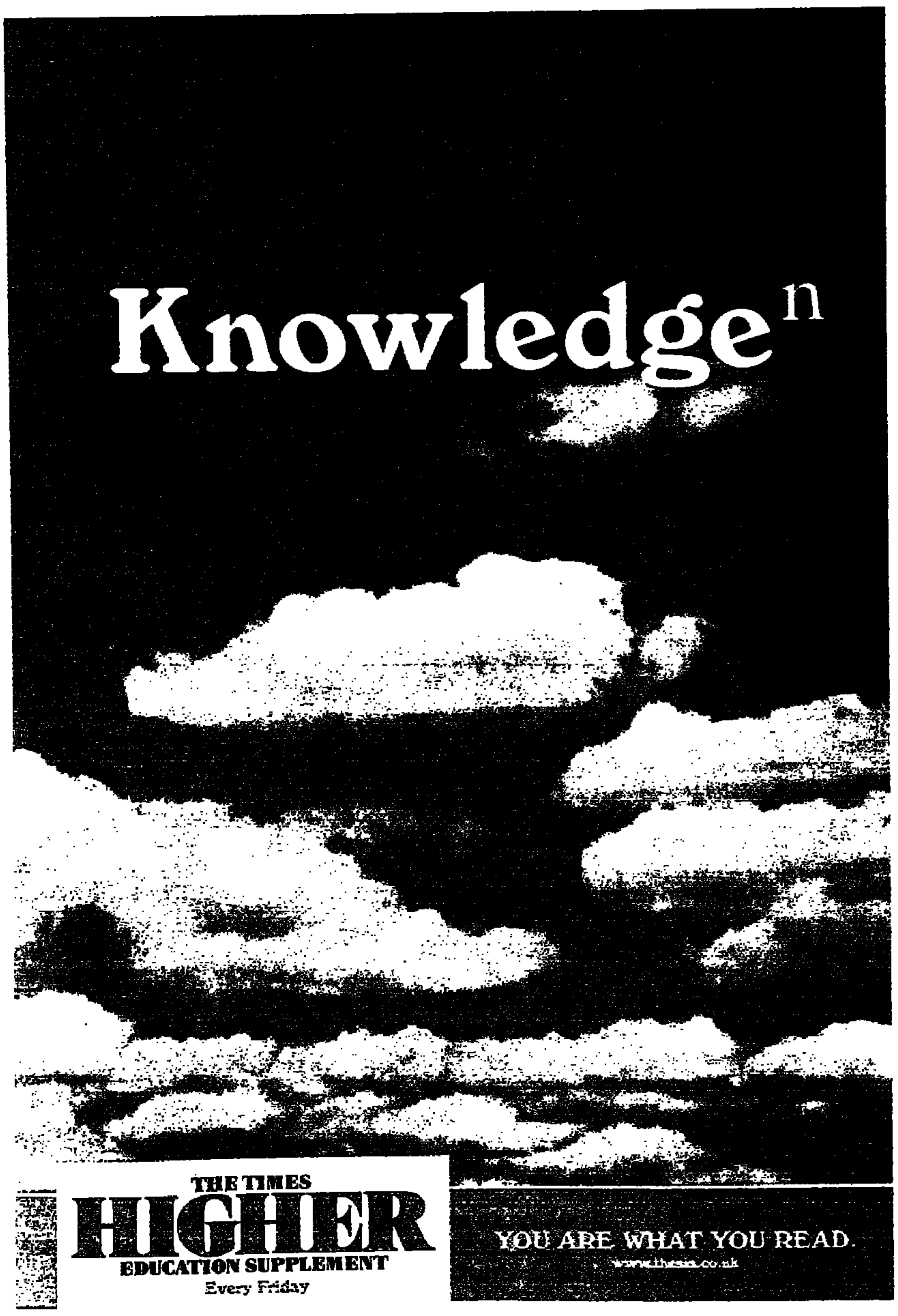
The cult of minimalism goes on, with lean lines emphasised by raised seams or rows of buttons. Asymmetrical wraps are not as fussy as they sound — the one from Ter et Bantine featured here is simplicity itself and can be worn open without looking odd.

The new shorter length undoubtedly has its advantages — no more roadsweeping, no more anxious examination of hems to see if they've worn through. It does make other demands, however. The current vogue for layering clothes means that it's now perfectly acceptable to wear a just below-the-knee coat over a longer skirt, but while perfect co-ordination may not matter quite so much at the moment, colours must at least sit comfortably together. If androgyny is your bag, opt for a variation on the man's overcoat, but make sure it has a feminine edge.

Finally, read the label — 90 per cent wool, means much more than 10 per cent cashmere.







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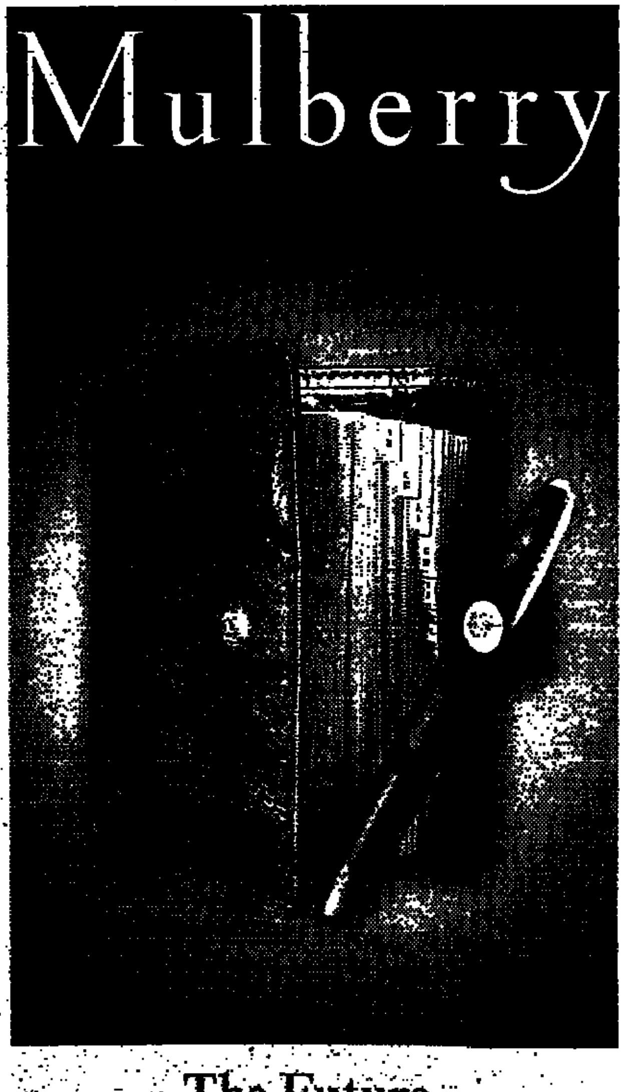

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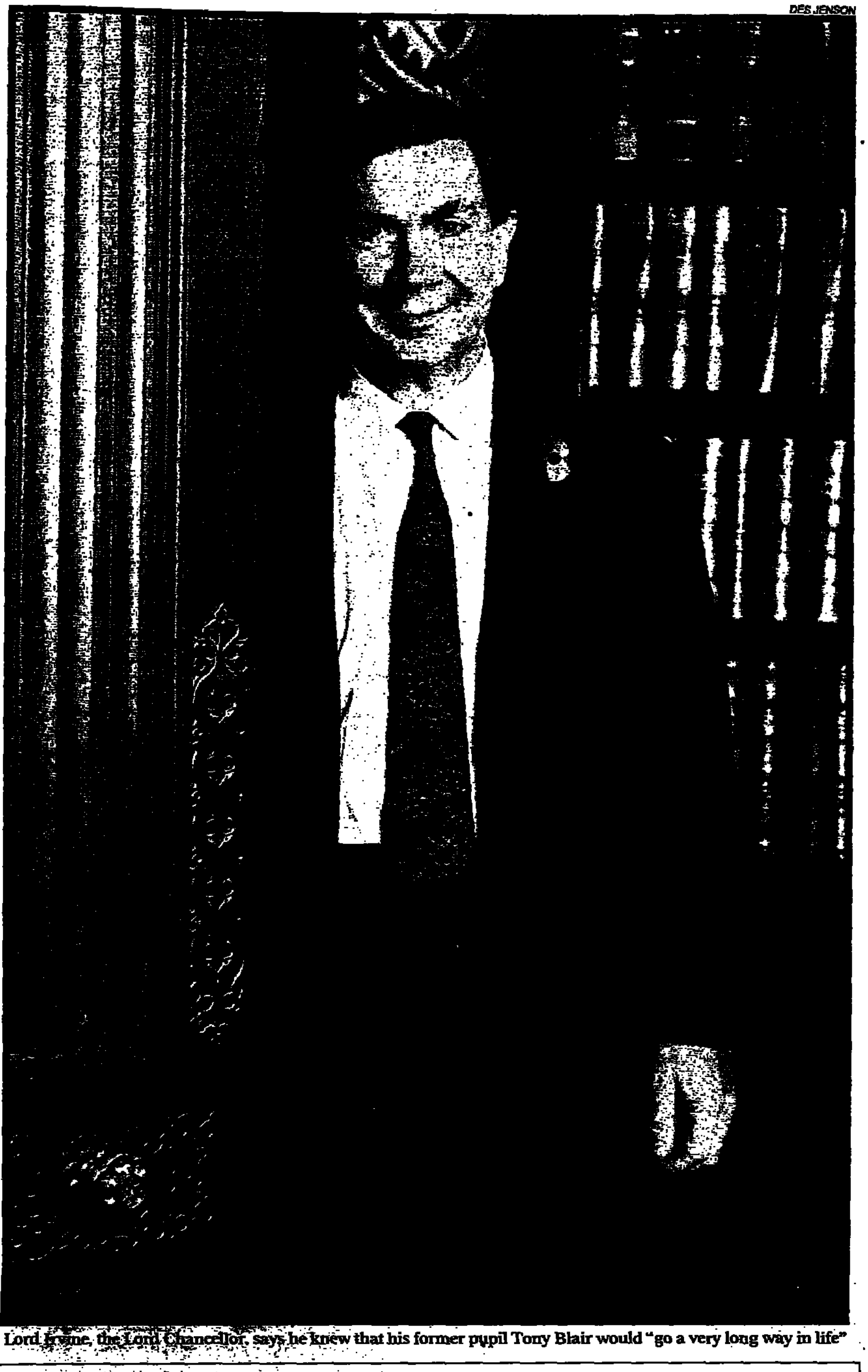
Tackling fat cats today and silk tights tomorrow

He arrived to predictions that he would be a conservative Lord Chancellor, but in his first full interview since taking office, Lord Irvine of Lairg tells **Frances Gibb** he is prepared to make hard choices

DES JENSON



Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, says he knew that his former pupil Tony Blair would "go a very long way in life"

He is arguably *the* heavy hitter of Cabinet. Close friend and mentor to Tony Blair — even responsible for introducing the young barrister Blair to Cherie — *Lord Irvine of Lairg is one of* the most powerful politicians in the Government. Yet he has chosen to stay backstage since being catapulted from the "cosy" (his word) world of the Bar, into high office as Lord Chancellor. Suddenly, he found himself a full-time politician and, unlike Cabinet colleagues, ill-prepared for it.

"It is enormous fun," he says. "I am having the time of my life." But despite starting work at 6.50am and chairing four Cabinet main and sub-committees, it is not the work*load that makes the difference.* "I had a huge practice at the Bar doing very large cases, sometimes working flat out. The work burden is not, perhaps, what I notice most." Rather, it is that the work *never ends:* "It's a *show that* continues day after day after day. You have to be continuously hands on."

As a result, he has immersed *himself in the role,* appearing only for the odd run-in with the press — with whom relations have been prickly — or to rise to the odd gossipy story about the cost of the refurbishment of his flat or *lunchtime habits.* Now though, six months into the job, the new Lord Chancellor's substance and style are emerging.

The turning point was last month in Cardiff, where he went "like *Daniel going into* the lion's den" to outline plans to scrap civil legal aid, wrapped in a scathing attack on lawyers and their public image. Weeks earlier he had assailed "fat cat" lawyers' *legal aid fees,* which drew fury from the Bar, where he himself had been one of those very "fat cats" — albeit in the commercial sphere.

"Lawyers are hugely unpopular. And that is what makes *the task of any Lord Chancel*lor difficult, fighting his corner for justice with his Cabinet colleagues where scarce public resources are concerned."

Lord Irvine is unrepentant. He denies being poacher *turned gamekeeper.* "I have always had the view that [lawyers'] fees were very high indeed. And I cannot justify the disparity in reward, for example, between the top QC and our finest surgeon. In particular areas I do not think that the law emerges very well out of that."

His "fat cats" attack came when under fire himself over high court fees. *The criticism* he says, was "high-order humbug, when the real problem is the value that lawyers put on their own services. The culture of *legal aid* has transferred into a culture for lawyers, *which believes they should be* spared bearing the business costs that every other business in the country recognises, in a free market system, it must bear. *I* challenge that proposition."

'I have always thought lawyers' fees are very high'

What has caught the profes*sion by surprise is* that the language, the sentiment and even the turn of phrase could all have come from the lips of his predecessor, Lord Mackay *of Clashfern.* There had been pre-election hopes that Lord Irvine would be more of the lawyers' friend. But his legal aid reforms are in some respects like those planned by Lord Mackay. He wants fixed-price contracts to cap the high legal aid fees, and next April *plans to scrap civil legal aid* from money disputes while expanding "no win, no fee" arrangements.

Critics say "no win" work will not plug the gap because of the high cost — in areas such as medical negligence — of insuring against paying the other side's costs in *the event* of losing an action. But Lord *Irvine dismisses* this. "It is thoroughly bad business for the solicitors to be going around saying that none of this will work because the insurance costs are so high. If I were an insurance salesman, I would be rubbing my hands in delight that solicitors are saying we can only buy insurance at very high premiums. Nothing," he adds, "will inflate insurers' expectations more *than silliness of that kind."*

The sentiment will guarantee him public and Cabinet credibility. And whether or not his anti-lawyer brief is newly acquired, *he* certainly argues it convincingly enough. With *genuine relish he recounts the* "outrageous" tale of a solicitor who said: "I do a lot of these medical negligence cases, on legal aid. In fact, that's what my business is about. I couldn't possibly do them on anything else because *most* of them lose."

If Lord Irvine were the parent of a brain-damaged child, he says, he would not *wish* the "*disaster or agony of* litigation" to go down to legal defeat. He wants a new threshold for legal aid — a case must have a 75 per cent chance of success. "Wild horses would not drag me into litigation at *any less prospect of success."*

Unpopular with lawyers, he has also sparred with Cabinet colleagues. There have been brushes with *Jack Straw, the Home Secre*tary, and Harriet Harman. Within his own department, junior officials find him brusque and demanding. Lord Irvine also has a keen sense of his own pivotal place in the *Government. His department* — he calls it the Justice Department — has moved centre stage, and he sees himself forming policy with, not separate from, the Home Secretary.

"One *thing* that has really struck me most about Government since I came into it is how, in order to deliver the desired outcomes about which all of us are agreed, it *is* necessary to get the agencies that have to co-operate together to do so effectively." Lord Irvine, 57, views himself and his department as being at the heart of that co-operation. And as head of the judiciary as well as a Cabinet Minister, he is also on a "critical cusp in the constitution". As such, it falls *to him, he believes, to ensure* relations with the judges are smooth. The natural "conduit" between judges and the executive, he is determined to avoid clashes of the kind that arose with Michael Howard. The *two powers were* "*widely per*ceived to have come into collision under the last Government. *I will see it as a* personal failure if they come into collision under this one."

He hates the antique garb that he has to don each day

Beyond justice policy, Lord Irvine also has the key role of co-ordinating the Government's programme of constitu*tional reform, including devo*lution. The Human Rights Bill, incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, has had its second reading. There are media fears that in devel*oping a new privacy law,* judges will hamper press freedom. But Lord Irvine rejects any special measures in the Bill to protect the press or stop judges granting interim "gagging" orders by stating the *right to privacy cannot prevail* at such hearings. "That would mean that the media would have carte blanche to invade anyone's privacy, in any way, but *that they could never be* injuncted for it." But, he adds, the Government favours self-regulation: "It has every desire *for newspapers to be strongly* self-regulated so that they don't come in front of judges who are paid for by the state."

In all this, Lord Irvine enjoys *an unprecedented* closeness to Tony Blair. He acknowledges the relationship is closer than any postwar Lord Chancellor has had with *the Prime Minister; Mr Blair's* predecessor, John Smith, was also a great friend. But his role harks back to that of past Lord Chancellors, who sat at the centre of Government as the monarch's chief adviser.

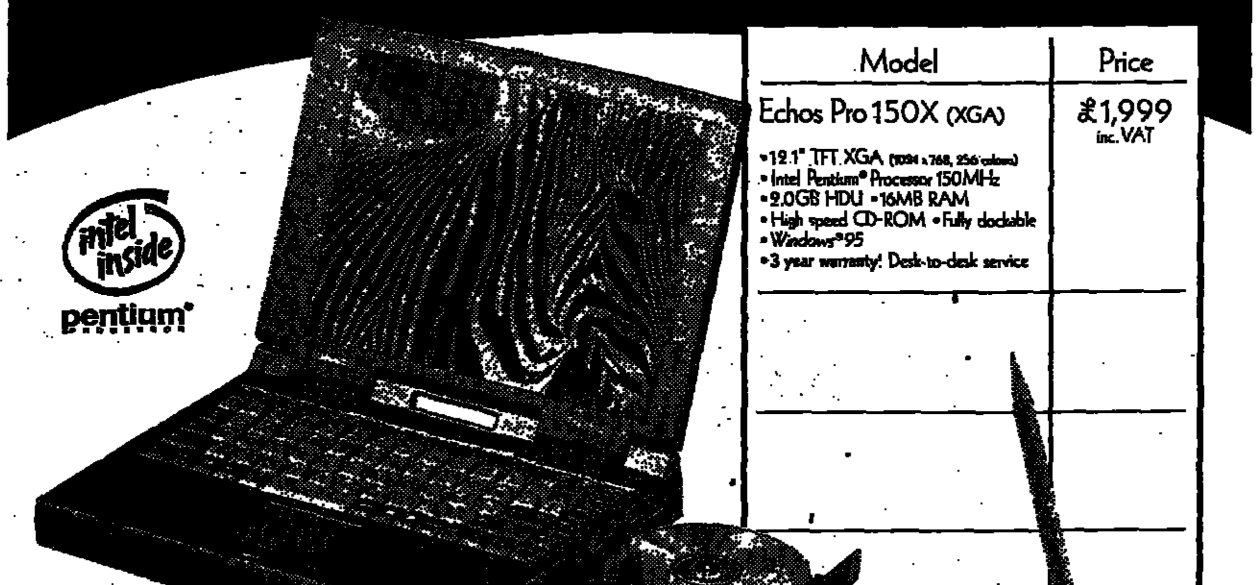
It is a strange reversal from the 1970s, when he took the young Blair into his chambers as a pupil barrister. Lord Irvine broke with his practice *and took him as an extra* pupil, conscious that "this was somebody who was going to go a very long way in life".

Never before in the history of English law, he says, have the tables been turned so *comprehensively,* with the pupil becoming Prime Minister and the master Lord Chancellor. "The trouble with that joke is that the Prime Minister goes *around using it as if it were his* own."

Jokes are not really his stock in trade. A roof slater's son who was brought up in Sutherland, then educated at Inverness Academy and Hutcheson's Boys' Grammar School in Glasgow, he is a serious and earnest man, who in his limited spare time enjoys fine wine and dining and shares a love of collecting art with his wife, Alison, with *whom he has two grown sons.* But as a bulky man who is awkward when on public display, he hates the trappings of his job, the pomp and ceremony, and the antique garb that he has to don each day.

Next in line for reform is the House of Lords, and the removal of his own wig, and the "ludicrous" silk tights, are high on the list of targets.

Lord Mackay was a hard act to follow in terms of radical*ism: and Lord Irvine arrived* to predictions that he would be a far more cautious, "conservative" Lord Chancellor. He is determined to prove otherwise, and is well on the way to doing so. But as a Labour Lord *Chancellor, even a new Lab*our one, his decisions must be tempered with concern. Dismantling the postwar legal aid scheme will be the first test of *whether he can combine hard* choices with compassion.



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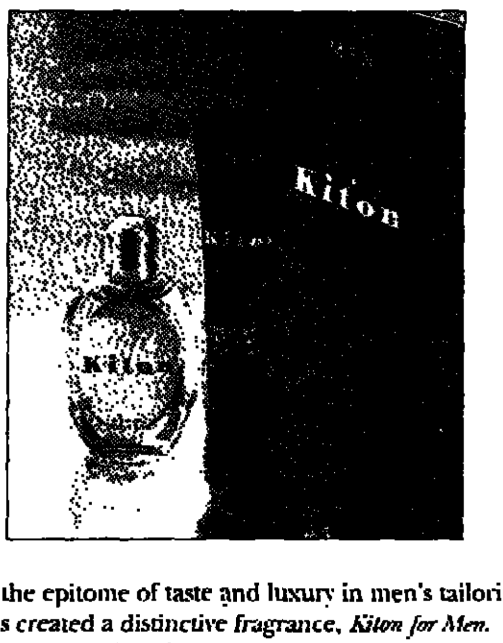

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A singular man in all his diversity

Rosemary Righter on the many values of Isaiah Berlin

Freddie Ayer used to recall that, wandering through Oxford on the way to a party once, he encountered an undergraduate who so entranced him that he never reached his destination. My husband, William, had another, later, memory, of a series of eight postwar lectures given by Isaiah Berlin which began so hugely over-subscribed that he had to lead his audience from a smaller theatre to the largest auditorium of the Schools — and ended with my husband and two others the only ones still in attendance.

The two anecdotes illuminate both the magnetic personal charm for which Berlin was loved and celebrated by his friends, and the difficulty that his rigorous refusal to countenance the single all-embracing explanation or idea posed to less agile minds than his own.

Berlin's abiding suspicion of doctrines that pretended to final truths informed all his thinking about the century his life spanned and which he described as "the most terrible in Western history". He once defined the ideologue as somebody who is prepared to suppress what he suspects to be true — and from that disposition in men with power has flowe much of the evil of this and other centuries. For him, the task of the thinker is to "subvert, break through, destroy, liberate, let in air from outside"; that of politics is to accommodate diversity.

Berlin's most distinctive contribution to political thought was the concept of "value pluralism". This did not for Berlin amount to a surrender to mere relativism; he had severe judgments on the subjectivism of the Romantics. What Berlin meant was that values are inescapably choices, and each man's life a plurality of values. The ideas that inform values are processes, often disruptive and not always compatible. Even within a single culture, there is no true convergence — and if there were, liberty would die for who could exercise their freedom to decide against what was universally accepted as benign? Hence the requirement on each of us to choose between concepts of the good. Man is born to argue and to disagree, temptedthough he will always be by the lure of ultimate truth.

Liberty, similarly, could not be accommodated to ethics, just as it could not be legislated for, because "Liberty is liberty, not equality or fairness or justice or human happiness or a quiet conscience".

Voltaire was a hero; and his preferred reading among philosophers were the books with which he was not in sympathy, that would force him to defend his beliefs in the excited awareness that something read might always persuade him to change his mind.

That openness to ideas remained with him into old age, informed every word he wrote and was a powerful source of his attraction to friends and all who read or met him. The son of the Jewish merchant from Riga believed that Russia's greatest gift to civilisation was the concept of the intelligentsia; and the breadth of learned curiosity that this implies was what he brought to this country when his family emigrated here shortly after the Revolution.

He first read Marx relatively late, 20 years after he had, as a boy of eight, watched the start of the Russian Revolution from the balcony of his parents' house in Petrograd — and then only because he was approached by a publisher with a request for a monograph. What he met in Marxism was a decisive historical break, a doctrine that not only divided humanity into classes, doomed burgeoisie and a proletariat destined to be saved, between which no dialogue was possible, but rejected the very concept of debate as bourgeois decadence and deceit.

The horrors and futilities of that doctrine, translated into the Soviet political reality, haunted him throughout his life. The "true liberty" and "true freedom" proclaimed by Marx's heirs was "talk that cost innocent lives". Both his reading of Marx and his absorption in the Russian Revolution and its consequences informed *The Hedgehog and the Fox*, his famous essay on Tolstoy where he took as his starting point the saying of Archilochus that the fox knows many things, and the hedgehog one big thing. Tolstoy the novelist was a fox, alert to the complexities and variety of character; but Tolstoy's sense of history he saw as flawed by the single vision of the hedgehog.

Berlin rejected the teleological interpretation, shared by Tolstoy, of history as an inevitable force with predetermined outcomes that dragged humanity in its wake. The human consciousness was too stubbornly various for that, Berlin believed; he preferred Kant's dictum that "out of the crooked timber of humanity, nothing straight was ever made". Fo most of his life, the Soviet Union appeared to contradict the possibilities of such philosophical optimism; but its collapse vindicated Berlin in his championship of foxes.

> **He was a social lion of the intellectual world**

Yet Berlin was like Marx in one respect; as political analyst and philosopher, he was fascinated by dualities — between hedgehogs and foxes, monists and pluralists, negative and positive liberty, liberty and socialism, Enlightenment and Counter-Enlightenment, or the subtleties of the distinction between relativism and pluralism.

An elegant and private man who yet contrived, without so intending, to be a social lion of the intellectual world, Berlin smilingly used to claim that he turned to political thought from his original discipline of philosophy because he did not believe himself to approach the stature of a Gilbert Ryle.

As political thinker, he steadily pursued the dialogue with fanaticism and ideology that ideologues refuse to countenance. Yet it is as moral philosopher that this most subtle and delightful master of his adopted English language will endure; as an elegant and persuasive unraveller of the tortured skeins of the ferocious era spanned by his long life.

A siesta at High Noon

For the Tories the best course of action is inaction: they do not need a showdown

I have been re-reading the front pages of newspapers for the first one hundred days of Margaret Thatcher's new government in 1979. Try it if you can. You too would see that things people get worked up about today may be totally sidelined by events tomorrow.

The Times was on strike. What do you suppose dominated *The Daily Telegraph*? Industrial relations, do you think? Trade union legislation? Sale of council houses? Privatisation? The economy? East-West relations? Any of the great chapter headings that were to characterise the Tory Eighties? No. It was Rhodesia. The Conservative Party was involved in furious internal rows, and the Conservative Government in desperately difficult (and, at the time, absorbing) international manoeuvres, to remove a still-defiant white regime from power in what was then Salisbury.

How long ago, how far away, that all seems. How irrelevant to the era whose dawn that was; how far removed from the concerns we would soon be placing at the centre of national debate. Just imagine — it is fanciful, yes, but not unimaginable — that the Tories had split seriously over Rhodesia. What a pointless, vainglorious civil war that would, in hindsight, have appeared to be.

Luckily, Mrs Thatcher joined the Wets on this issue, bridging what would otherwise have been a natural faultline. The row never quite reached explosive proportions, and soon blew over. When you are the Government, you have to act.

But when you are the Opposition, there is no such compulsion. Troublesome questions that time may later settle can be brushed to one side; crunches can be postponed; there are no High Noons unless you stage them for yourselves. This is the enormous luxury of opposition, the one great compensation for lack of office. Clever oppositions use it.

Have the Conservatives forgotten that they are in opposition? Has it not occurred to them that shelving problems is an option? Have the Tories lost the art of benign inattention? To my despair, I fear they have.

And despair is the word. Desperate remedies cartwheel through my brain. Could we not freeze the Conservative Party as we freeze embryos? Is there no spell I could cast over my old tribe, throwing them into a two-year coma? Is there some sleeping draught I could give them, a magic dust to throw in their eyes, bewitching them into a long stupor — some soporific dart to drug them into insensibility until 1999?

There does, by this morning, seem to be some temporary respite in which to do this. The Conservative Party does seem to have felt some intimation of the fate which could await it, some inkling that this time the danger could be real. They have drawn a few inches back from the brink. The Mainstream grouping of Tory MPs who support the single currency has decided not to push matters to a head — yet.

But for how long? William Hague and the majority he commands must see how precious is this breathing-space, and understand that it is only a breathing space. They must use it. A stupid, intemperate row must be defused. The stakes must be lowered, the armies pulled back. The old, weary arts of compromise, postponement and — yes — fudge used once again.

This could be urgent. I feel as we all have felt when we see people who need each other, and whom we need, sliding in the heat of some foolish moment into saying things that, once said, can never be unsaid — slithering into a rupture that can never be healed. If we can stop them now, then by tomorrow — next week, next month, next year — the angry moment may have passed. A sense of proportion may return. Then they may be able to see clearly what now they cannot.

Matthew Parris

But how do we get from now to then? Is there no communication cord we can pull, no glass we can smash to activate the emergency brakes, no way of pressing the freeze-frame button and forestalling the next sequence? There is none. Short of the immediate collapse of the single currency project, for which William Hague and Tony Blair no doubt fervently pray, fate is unlikely to provide soon the *deus ex machina* that would end the Tories' present agonies and Labour's future anxieties.

So from immediate events Mr Hague can hope for little. Whatever oil may be needed for these troubled waters, it is unlikely to come from the sky before Christmas.

How about after Christmas though? How about the new year, or 1999? "Events," said the Permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign Office to a group of new entrants (including me) in 1974, "are often very compelling." Are the Tory combatants in November 1997 so utterly sure in their own minds that nothing could happen between now and the next general election that might settle or sideline their present dispute — are they so certain that the battle lines now drawn are for all time that they must press this to a bitter and bloody resolution now?

It is likely that the single currency will start on schedule in 1999, but, contrary to what it has now become conventionally wise to remark, it is not certain. The money markets, German domestic politics, Helmut Kohl's cardiologist, the fragility of the accord between Germany and France on the inclusion of Italy and others . . . all these are imponderables. To place any reliance on the unravelling of the timetable for the Euro would be foolish; but it could still unravel. If that happened, current feverish disputation about words such as "*foreseeable*" and phrases like "for the lifetime of this Parliament" would look in retrospect extraordinarily silly.

I am a Tory Eurosceptic. Hostile to the single currency and cool about the entire European project, I doubt the economics and reject the politics of "ever-closer union". So, as a Eurosceptic, may I suggest to Mr Hague that he has allowed the Eurosceptics to push him just a mite too far? Confident as I am of my own opinions, I do not feel any compelling urge to try to anticipate more than the foreseeable future. "The foreseeable future" was one of those awkward, risible, but in the end serviceable phrases that the whole party could have worn, whatever negotiation positions extremists may at the outset have struck.

Confidence in our opinions ought to inform the approach Eurosceptics take to less sceptical Tory colleagues. If we are so certain the single currency will not work, what are we afraid of? If it bombs, Ken Clarke and his friends will simply go away. The logic of our argument points to a quite early failure of the Euro; or, if not total failure, problematic operation. If this is what we believe will happen, why force the party leader to sign on any dotted line for the opinions he will profess in 2001?

The more rabid and sometimes personal become the newspaper articles and Commons denunciations attacking the single currency, the more I suspect in their authors a secret lack of *confidence in their own argument*. Do they, perhaps, fear that the single currency will be, for those who join it, a conspicuous and early success?

I am not much troubled by this fear, but, as it underlies (and contradicts) the stated case against the Euro, we should tackle it head-on. It is, I suppose, *possible* that events may make the economic case for a single currency. That would bring us, in a few years, to a crunch point. Are we then still opposed, for political and constitutional reasons?

A good question. But am I absurdly modest to suggest we might leave that for the next political generation to answer? I hope that in five or six years the political objections to ever-closer union will still seem strong; if they do, then I hardly need Mr Hague's signature today to the proposition that he will advance them. I know he will. If, however, they do not seem strong, then why should I require that Hague be bound, now, to advance them then, regardless?

Forgive me, but is this not a rational point of view? Or am I mad? Or has everyone else gone mad?

I am left with the argument that *parents have used with children since* children were children and parents were parents; the argument that always sounds so lame; the argument that ducks the issue and infuriates anyone with a principled case to press and an inflamed desire to press it; the argument that isn't even an argument; that fails every logical test; and that, time and again and when the dust has settled, is afterwards seen to have been good advice. "*You're just tired.* Go to bed. Get some sleep. It will all seem different in the morning."

Unimpressive, isn't it? Not an answer to sweep you off your feet. Not a knock-down argument to settle a stand-up row. Each from his separate corner, Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke, may think this a limp flag under which to march. But it is a banner under which I am content to serve — and under which (more to the point) the great majority of the Conservative Party would be content for the present to serve, if only their opinion were interesting to the newspapers.

So is it — all you Williams, Kenneths, Michaels, Peters, and Johns — unreasonable to beg you to stop and count to ten before it is too late? And if ten will not do, to carry on counting to a hundred, or ten thousand, or until the fever has passed? Is it, in short, unreasonable for all those millions of ordinary members and voters who have born with you so long, to ask you to sleep on this?

With a kiss and a sword

John Lloyd on two ways to pursue a Blairite Britain

There is a split between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. It is over the fundamental issue in Britain today and is becoming increasingly obvious. One might explain it, in the manner of Oscar Wilde: *The Premier does it with a kiss/ The Chancellor with a sword.*

This Ballad of Downing Street is meant to demonstrate that the split, so far, is entirely to the Government's advantage. It is a splitting of responsibilities in pursuit of a common project. The common project is to reshape Britain.

The Prime Minister does it with the kiss which seeks to propose Britain as a new, cool and inventive country, unencumbered by the heavy traditions of empire, class division, dumpy design and lumpy food — indeed, all that constituted a Britishness risible to foreigners and British sophisticates alike. Hence the video presented to the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Edinburgh which piled image upon image of thrust, youth and brightness; hence the hosting of today's FRI Anglo-French summit in a floor of Canary Wharf decked out by Sir Terence Conran.

These are the new images of a young country and a young Prime Minister. We are to present ourselves as a centre for the best of pop music, electronics, communications and design; as the roman candle of the Western world, throwing off sparks and explosions of talent.

Gordon Brown, in contrast, uses the sword of reason to cleave through the obfuscations of the Right and reveal a new basis for Britishness. In his *Spectator* lecture on Tuesday, he argued that Britain had had a "protracted and troubled journey" since the last war in defining its identity — able neither to settle for the "Athens to the thrusting Rome of the US" proposed by Harold Macmillan, nor to be the cradle of a technological revolution put up by Harold Wilson. He payed a gracious tribute to the woman he spent much of the 1980s reviling, Margaret Thatcher. "She recognised the need for Britain to re-invent itself and rediscover a new and vital self confidence."

Labour would build on that, Mr Brown suggested, but complement rugged British individualism with such traditional themes as fair play and tolerance of other cultures. The speech proposed a kind of Fukuyama-ist end of history lesson — with new Labour as the physicist producing a fusion of the individualist and the co-operative as two aspects of what Brown called British genius.

This is a great double act. It confronts a civil society apparently more malleable than it has been since the war — liable to emote dramatically at the death of a media princess, to show vast political enthusiasm for new Labour and to renounce former allegiances. In the last case, it is remarkable how the French lorry drivers' strike has played here — remarkable for the absence of the class-war dog. The British voices on the airwaves have been at one in their impatience with the French. No voice expressing even the vestiges of trade union or class solidarity has disturbed the exasperated determination to get on with the job of transporting commodities in the face of old fashioned Gallic bloody-mindedness. The British workers, it seems, no longer have even the most formal interest in portraying themselves, or being portrayed by their unions or political parties, as part of an internationale of labour.

The plasticity of society for new Labour's moulders is increased by the Tories' disarray. On this page, yesterday, the former Tory Chancellor, Norman Lamont, accused his successor of being a Euro-federalist, stooping to reveal a private conversation to do so. This is a party steeped into blood so far that it cannot return, but must go on until the hacking stops from weariness.

Even the wars which Labour's leadership presently face are not serious. Blair, unlike Lionel Jospin, does not face a major and recognised force in civil society. He faces pressure groups. To be accused by ASH of reneging on a tobacco advert ban, or by the League Against Cruel Sports of dropping anti-hunting legislation, are embarrassments, but can be lived with. They will be marginalised by a Government skilled in picking off its enemies.

The project of reshaping the country has little opposition. Yet William Hague has grasped a central point: the re-inventing of Britain as a good European will sooner or later rouse the sleeping lion of the British nation state. It is already stirring, bothered by the gnats of Scots and Welsh devolution, concessions to republicans in Ulster, reform of the Lords and now — most irritating — the approach of a single currency.

The battle is deep and wide. Blair was right when, before the election, he advertised his Government-to-be as a radical one. It wants to change us fundamentally, with both the kiss and the sword. The aim is not to kill, but to preserve, the thing it says it loves — Britain. This will define politics until deep into the next millennium.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.

Philip Howard's column will appear tomorrow.

THE TIMES DIARY

Game's up

AN ANCIENT gift from the Queen to the Archbishop of Canterbury has fallen victim to new Labour's bunny-huggers. For nine centuries, England's primates have been enthusiastic benefactors of the annual cull of deer in the Royal Parks. Twice every autumn, bloody haunches of venison have been dispatched to Lambeth Palace by royal train to grace the table of the Archbishop as a gift of the monarch. But that was before the dour Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, decided to change the rules of the game, deeming such pursuits old Britain. The minister is able to deny His Grace one of the few benefits of wearing a pointy hat because among his eclectic portfolio is the arcane position of the Queen's cofferer which has the power of life and death over the blue-blooded Bambies.

The official excuse: cost-cutting. But cross clergymen believe that the Government's love of animals and the vegetarian brigade has motivated Smith, whose country pursuits extend no further than hill walking in patent leather shoes.

The Archbishop, who has already cut the grub budget, has not lost his appetite for venison, even at £30 per haunch. "The venison was always used on official occasions for official guests," says my man at Lambeth Palace. "If we need it in future, it will still be served." As for the royal deer, they will continue to be culled.

Regal venison vendetta

Hair-raising

PETER Temple-Morris may have decided to stick with the Tory party but his hair seems less reliable. Westminster-watchers have long observed a yellow-tinge to his once white mane, but lately an alarming green sheen has been detected.

"I have light white hair but under television lights it can sometimes appear what it is not," he ventured. He blames a lotion from Trumpers, London's barbers to the gentry. "Rou Ex," exclaimed a clipper from there. "It's a hair rinse that removes any yellowish colour from white hair."

Temple-Morris believes that the tortuous decision not to defect will help to restore his mop's sheen. "If it wasn't white before it would be after recent events." Just so.

● *GROAN. Bill Cash, Euro obsessive, rose to respond to William Hague's speech at a meeting of the 1922. The assembled girded themselves for another detailed analysis of the ills of Maastricht. But Cash's oration left his colleagues stunned. "I agree with everything William has said and I have no questions." Cue sighs of relief. Perhaps Hague is not stupid after all; he might be simply very, very right wing.*

Turntable

THERE are tight fists at the UN HQ at The Hague: they refuse to return a desk that they borrowed six months ago from the Tricycle Theatre in north London.

It was made by the theatre for *Srebrenica*, a play about the Bosnian war crimes tribunal. A UN bod saw the work, thought the desk would look good in The Hague and borrowed it. Problem: the play is reopening at the National, and the director, Nicholas Kent, needs it. "They are behaving shoddily," he says. "It was not a gift. No other will do." It might have to.

● *GRISLY reading: Lenin's embalmer, Illya Zbarsky, 84, is spending the anniversary of the Revolution writing his memoirs: he will disclose that the body is kept moist through immersion in a tub of chemicals for two months a year. Maybe William Hague should try this on Michael Heseltine.*

WE ARE NOT A PARTY WITHIN A PARTY
Geoff Thompson

"Inside every fat party there's a thin party trying to get out"

Fast mover

JOHN Redwood has a new vessel in which to shuttle around the galaxy. He is trading his beloved E-type Jaguar for a smoother XJ8. But before he throws his goggles and driving gloves away for the atmospheric-controlled splendour of his new wheels, Redwood will make a farewell tour of his Wokingham constituency. "The XJ8 is the people's car," a fellow Vulcan confided in him. "Well, you can get more people in it at any rate." Wealthy sorts, naturally.

The Bowies: Somalian discussions

● *LATEST rock-star-politico love-in: David Bowie and Kofi Annan. Wednesday found him and his Somalian wife, Iman, breakfasting in Chile with the UN chief. Annan invited the singer to join in the forthcoming celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the International Declaration on Human Rights to discuss a photo opportunity... er, Somalia. I am sure the "celebrity couple" will contribute much to the debate.*

JASPER GERARD

RUSSIA'S DAY

To remember the revolution that soured and died

Today is the Day of Accord and Reconciliation in Russia. So President Yeltsin, who yesterday pinned an award on the Communist Speaker of the Russian Duma to underline his message of political tolerance, has proclaimed. Worldwide, the date will be more familiar as the 80th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

Although bread queues are now things of the past and a new middle class breed of consumers is discovering the novelties of hedonism in Moscow, much of the bleak physical legacy of the history begun that day endures. Across Russia, discontented clusters of the Communist faithful will march to the Soviet-era statues of Lenin that still dominate the dreary Stalinist town squares. But the psychological and political wounds that Lenin and Stalin opened are starting to heal; and the Russian economy is at last, even if unevenly, developing a vigour that confirms the death of Soviet man.

Above all, Russia has gone further down the road of political transformation than the continued strong electoral support for the Communist Party would seem to suggest. There are still many Russians for whom the market economy means late pay or no pay; they look back in anger, lamenting the certainties of the command economy. But few still cherish illusions about the redeeming virtues of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, clings to the ambition to restore "Soviet power, the highest form of democracy in the world". But even within his own party, such fossilised rhetoric is rare.

In the week of Sir Isaiah Berlin's death, the Russia that remembers the revolution which he witnessed as a child is one in which individuals are again free to choose and to value that freedom. His lifelong conviction that the heroically contrary human spirit must eventually break the rigid mould of Marxist doctrine is being borne out.

The challenge now for Boris Yeltsin and for his young team, the most convincingly reformists that Russia has ever known, is to put in place the reforms needed to buttress individual liberties with the institutions necessary for a functioning, legitimate and respected state authority. Russia may have wrestled off the Marxist straitjacket; but its people have instead to endure the brutality of capitalist robber boyars and their counterparts in organised crime.

Russia may be stuck with cowboy capitalism for a time, because if they are to surmount bureaucratic obstacles to jump-starting the market economy, entrepreneurs are almost doomed to cut corners. But what is particularly resented is the unhealthy hold that these new rich have established over political decisions — and exploited to grab control, at knockdown prices, of Russia's giant energy companies as they were privatised. Mr Yeltsin, whose victorious electoral campaign last year was financed by some of Russia's most prominent of these men, has been slow to break these links between money and political power.

Mr Yeltsin's dismissal this week of Boris Berezovsky from the Kremlin's powerful Security Council is therefore encouraging. It is a victory for Boris Nemtsov and Anatoli Chubais, the young first deputy premiers who have been battling for months to rein in the oligarchs. Reconciliation, for Russia, must include reconciliation with the marketplace. For that, a return to economic growth is necessary, but not sufficient. Markets must, as Mr Yeltsin seems now to grasp more clearly than he did, be seen to be governed by rules that apply to all.

IRA IRRECONCILABLES

The wreckers of peace must be stopped, if necessary by force

Dissension and impatience with the peace process led to the end of the last IRA ceasefire. Reports of widespread republican unease and the resignation of two members from the 12-person provisional IRA army executive have inevitably provoked fears that the current fragile peace may not hold. Security sources believe that the republican leadership is committed to remaining within talks and capable of maintaining the present cessation of violence. But the tensions within provisional ranks are ominous.

The consequences of past divisions haunt the current provisional IRA leadership, which itself came to power after frustration with an insufficiently militant old guard. The Government has been sensitive to republican demands throughout the peace process, at the cost of unsettling many democrats, but it must beware of being drawn into further concessions to an organisation that will never be at peace with itself until it has achieved all its war aims.

Even though the provisional IRA ceasefire holds, Northern Ireland is not free from republican violence. A small splinter group, the Continuity IRA, which has never reconciled itself to the peace process was responsible for the bombing of a government building in Londonderry last week. The use of Semtex in the assault suggests that the Continuity IRA has some limited access to the provisional IRA's armoury, probably through disaffected members of the larger terrorist group.

Although one of those who resigned from the Provisional IRA's army's executive was the organisation's quarter-master general with responsibility for ordinance and arms dumps, he and his allies are unlikely at this stage to defect to the Continuity IRA. The existence of the rival group does, however, pose an ever present danger. Its political wing, Republican Sinn Fein, holds its conference in Dublin this weekend. Its supporters may be tempted to strike again to attract publicity, and the rhetoric of RSF leaders will undoubtedly be closer to the private feelings of provisional dissidents than the public words of their current leaders. The prospect of defections, or deeper co-operation, should serve as a warning to the security forces on both sides of the border not to lower their guard any further.

The clandestine nature of the provisionals' operation and the Leninist discipline governing Sinn Fein's public statements make it impossible to gauge the real level of unease within Republican ranks. That is a double concern for the Government. Not only is the scale of potential defection impossible to chart but, in the mirrored corridors of Ulster politics, it will suit Gerry Adams to exaggerate the danger of dissent. The republican leadership is likely to use its apparent internal difficulties as a bargaining counter in negotiations. Mr Adams will argue that he is entirely committed to peace, indeed the most reasonable of men, but further concessions will be needed if he is to keep his unruly forces in line: the big black dog will need to be thrown some meat if it is not to slip its master's leash.

Unfortunately for the Government, several goodies have already been taken from the larder. A softer stance on prisoners, the plan to abolish internment powers and the proposal to end exclusion orders have all been designed to propitiate republicans. But appetites seem only to have grown.

Ministers will be well advised to treat republican demands with greater wariness in future. If the Sinn Fein leadership is serious about negotiation and compromise then it must sell the virtues of involvement to its apparently sceptical grass roots instead of relying on the Government to appease the unappeasable. Government steps designed to bind in republican refuseniks are committed to what the Sinn Fein activist Brian Keenan called the complete "decommissioning of the British state in Ireland". If there is a risk of a new and fundamental split in Republican ranks then it will be the job of the Government to deal forcibly with those determined to wreck the peace.

ON LINE

League tables are necessary to keep the trains on the rails

The Government is beginning to take a tougher line with the privatised rail companies. Yesterday it demanded a bigger say in the allocation of future franchises and also ordered John Swift, the Regulator, to work more closely with ministers to protect passenger interests and enforce warnings on operating companies failing to live up to their promises. The aim is clear: until new legislation sets up the Strategic Rail Authority, Labour is to use the existing regulatory bodies more aggressively to achieve its campaign promise to make the privatised rail companies more accountable.

This is a sensible step. The private companies, on the whole, are now performing well, winning new passengers for the railways and developing new markets with imaginative timetables, connections and services. Money is at last flowing in large amounts into the infrastructure. But there are some poor performers. And it needs to be made clear at this early stage that there are real penalties to be paid for slipshod service, overcrowding and creaming off profits at the expense of improvements in services and long-term provision.

Mr Swift has a difficult job. He has to regulate without micro-managing, set the framework without dictating policies and balance the legitimate commercial interests of the train companies with the rising expectations of passengers. Under the Conservatives there was a danger that his warning bark would lack the bite of enforcement. The first test came when South-West Trains, one of the first new companies, laid off so many drivers that it had to cancel hundreds of services. Mr Swift imposed big fines, and gave a warning that the franchise would be cancelled unless matters improved: but many passengers thought the company got off lightly. Since the election he has been encouraged to speak out. Where he has done so, there has been rapid change. Railtrack backed down in refusing the Regulator any say in its investment plans; the rail information service improved under threat of large fines; and companies skimping on rolling stock or safety have been publicly rebuked.

If train companies are to make a success of their franchises, they must have commercial freedom. But both the Regulator and Franchise Director must ensure that competent companies run a public service competently. More's the pity, therefore, that Mr Swift will not publish his league tables on accuracy in rail information. If competition is to raise standards, the public must know which companies are the pacesetters and which the laggards.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tobacco sponsors and motor sport

From the President of the
Royal College of Physicians,
and others

Sir, We are writing to express our extreme disappointment at the Government's decision to exempt Formula One motor racing from the proposed restrictions on tobacco sponsorship (reports, November 5 and 6).

That the Government has been unable to stand firm against pressure from the tobacco and other industries undermines its many other creditable attempts to reduce smoking-related diseases. It brings into question the commitment of the Government as a whole to the efforts of the Public Health Minister in protecting the public from what is still our biggest killer.

Not only is this decision damaging to the health of the UK population, but it also has much wider implications for our role within the European Union. The Council of Ministers is about to discuss the long-awaited draft directive on tobacco advertising, the success of which is now threatened by the UK's actions. We were delighted when the new administration reversed the UK's longstanding opposition to a directive and embraced the European route as an effective way forward.

We are therefore dismayed that the exemption for Formula One appears to put the whole directive at risk. A unique opportunity for Europe-wide action on tobacco is in jeopardy.

Yours sincerely,
K. G. M. M. ALBERTI,
President,
Royal College of Physicians,
A. W. MACARA,
Chairman of Council,
British Medical Association,
NAREN PATEL,
President,
Royal College of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists,
Royal College of Physicians,
11 St Andrews Place,
Regent's Park, NW1.
November 6.

From Lord Astor of Hever,
President of the Motorsport
Industry Association

Sir, I recognise the courage it must have required for the Minister for Public Health, Tessa Jowell, MP, to make her announcement yesterday safeguarding the British motorsport industry. It is also a realistic decision if there is to be an effective reduction in the total amount of tobacco sponsorship on our television screens worldwide.

This Government is taking the line of practical politics, since it is clear that an advertising ban in the UK would be almost impossible to enforce at foreign grands prix and would, in the process, jeopardise the employment prospects of 50,000 full-time workers in the British motor-sport industry.

I salute this pragmatic and highly sensible approach and will do everything I can to ensure that whatever agreement is reached in the future is upheld by the industry, in an equally responsible manner. The British motor-racing industry, as well as the millions of British enthusiasts who follow the sport each year, are grateful that common sense has prevailed.

Yours faithfully,
ASTOR of HEVER,
President,
Motorsport Industry Association,
29 The High Street,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.
November 6.

From Dr Peter Gregory

Sir, The association of a fast, glamorous and exciting sport with cigarettes encourages new smokers to think they are fast, glamorous and exciting.

It undoes the work of thousands of health workers attempting to prevent impressionable young people becoming addicted to a killer habit.

Yours sincerely,
PETER GREGORY,
3 Gainsborough Court,
Skipton, North Yorkshire.
November 5.

From Mr James M. Todd

Sir, Why doesn't this renegade Government join with other governments and sponsor Formula One grand prix racing? They could insist upon the legend "Smoking also kills" and thereby make a net saving by cutting the health bills.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES M. TODD,
Misbourne Farmhouse,
Amersham Road,
Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.
November 5.

Wheels under fire

From His Honour Patrick Halnan

Sir, I write as one who frequently cycled to court. My fellow cyclists may like to know that as long as they do not cycle "dangerously", "furiously", "carelessly" or "without reasonable consideration" they can cycle as fast as they like.

The offence of "speeding" can, in law, only be committed by drivers of motor vehicles.

I remain Sir, a happy cyclist.

Yours truly,
PATRICK HALNAN,
33 Rotherwick Way, Cambridge.
November 5.

Confidence of UK business in EMU

From Professor Geoffrey Maynard

Sir, As you state in your report today, Norman Lamont is, in effect, accusing Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine of putting Europe before the pound. It would perhaps be truer to say that Norman Lamont is putting the pound before the UK — that is, he would preserve the pound even if it could be demonstrated that the UK economy would do better without it.

This surely is the question: will the UK be better off in the EMU or outside it? An emotional appeal to preserve sterling doesn't help, particularly when, as is often the case, it is advanced by people whose principal motive appears to be to retain the right to devalue it.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY MAYNARD
(Economic Adviser),
Investcorp International Limited,
48 Grosvenor Street, W1.
November 6.

From Sir Richard George,
Chairman of Weetabix Limited

Sir, I was delighted to read the letter from Sir Michael Edwardes (November 5), whose business experience has been with very large companies. He is quite right: we are being told, with all too little evidence, that "large companies" believe Britain should plunge into a single currency.

Who are these "large companies"? In the food sector, many are in overseas control. They may be Swiss, Canadian, Dutch or American, and may not have a British perspective. They may well believe that Britain should join the single currency in the first wave, but for what reason? Not for the benefit of the United Kingdom, I am sure. The small and medium-sized businesses, which are predominantly British, would be far more likely to oppose such a move.

For Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke to try to tell everyone that business is in favour is as misguided as the actions that ousted the best Prime Minister we have seen this century and eventually led the Conservative Party into opposition.

Isn't it time we started listening to William Hague?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GEORGE,
Chairman,
Weetabix Limited
Weetabix Mills, Burton Latimer,
Kettering, Northamptonshire.
November 5.

From Mr William Cash,
MP for Stone (Conservative)

Sir, Paddy Ashdown ("Wrecked on the rock of Europe", November 3) suggests that we are "fascinated by how the single currency affects our politics — but not how it will affect our lives". I agree with him. Gordon Brown's latest statement on the single currency was confined solely to economic questions rather than the constitutional and political principles involved.

Last Wednesday, October 29, I asked the Prime Minister to explain these principles to the British people in a White Paper. He said he would have been delighted to answer on the constitutional issues had they been put to him, but did not answer my question.

In 1971 the Heath Government partially addressed these principles in a White Paper, but the promises about the veto and sovereignty were broken. Mr Blair should now tell the truth to the British people in a comprehensive White Paper. Then we can have the proper debate which the Euro-realists and Mr Ashdown have called for. Would Mr Ashdown now support my call for a White Paper?

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH
(Vice-Chairman,
Conservative Backbench
Committee on European Affairs),
House of Commons.
November 3.

From Sir Bryan Nicholson

Sir, Your editorial of October 31, "Old men forget", is vituperative, *ad hominem*, seductively simplistic. Fun to read if you are not the victim.

The way you characterise the Conservative opponents of the present leadership's line on EMU as a tiny minority without substantial backing amongst Conservative voters shows how far delusion can go. There is a coalition in the country ready to be marshalled for us to join a successful EMU, and many Conservatives are ready to be part of the coalition.

This is an issue of principle which overrides party considerations — that is presumably why William Hague is giving a free vote to his MPs — and you are therefore misguided to call for an artificial unity when such unity clearly does not exist.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN NICHOLSON,
Point Piper,
Lilley Drive, Kingswood, Surrey.
November 1.

Grouse or hawk?

From Mr Chris Mead

Sir, The headline to your report of November 1 on the five-year grouse-breeding experiment on Langholm Moor, in the Borders, describes it as "a costly failure".

I cannot agree. The careful scientific investigation conducted on Langholm by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, the Game Conservancy Trust and other groups has usefully proved that, in the absence of illegal slaughter of raptors, the red-grouse population failed to register the expected six-yearly peak.

The report also describes a big moor on Deeside, in Aberdeenshire, on which the raptors were protected over the same period, yet grouse numbers peaked as expected and the bags were normal.

What is the difference between the Deeside moor and Langholm? The heather on Langholm has retreated in the teeth and hoof of the sheep. That on Deeside, where sheep grazing is not a problem, is in good shape.

The Langholm initiative has proved that where moorland is having to support very large numbers of sheep it is not possible for driven grouse shooting to coexist with a natural and varied raptor population. The replacement of heather by grass encourages the small birds and mammals that the hen harriers mainly eat, and provides worse conditions for the red grouse that thrive in heather with bilberry and other plants.

The Earl of Dalkeith, owner of Langholm Moor, does have a very real problem, but sheep loom large in the equation, and support through headage payments, under the common agricultural policy, is at the very core of the problem. I have no doubt that Scottish Natural Heritage fully appreciate that the health of the heather moorland in areas like Langholm will depend, in the long term, on changes to the CAP.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS MEAD (Chartered biologist),
The Nunnery,
Hilborough, Thetford, Norfolk.
November 3.

From Mr Alan Morriss

Sir, The findings reported in your November 1 issue are hardly surprising, as there is little else but grouse for predators to eat in such comparatively barren and inhospitable places as Langholm Moor.

The hen harrier is the worst culprit. Before the persecution and habitat destruction of the last century set in, the bird was widespread throughout Britain, as it is today on the Continent.

Relocating the young birds to more southerly parts of the country would eliminate the necessity for their destruction, and the presence of these rare and beautiful birds would help to control the populations of voles and other small mammals, much to the benefit of farmers.

In the case of the peregrine — perhaps our noblest and most beautiful bird — the law could be changed to turn them into an asset for the landowner, rather than a liability. However, birds taken from the wild are considered superior, and a flourishing black-market trade in them exists. If landowners could obtain licences to harvest the young peregrines where they were a problem, they would be considered a valuable asset, with their worth far outstripping the few grouse they dispose of.

Yours,
ALAN MORRISS,
Pippingford Park, Nutley, Sussex.
November 3.

Choc horror

From Dr Napier Penlington

Sir, On November 3 you published a number of letters suggesting a new name for chocolate. I believe you yourselves have made the correct choice by heading them "Choc horror".

"Choc" is an ideal name for our chocolate which, adulterated with vegetable fats, is, after all, only half chocolate.

Yours sincerely,
NAPIER PENLINGTON,
2 Leighton Close,
Coventry, West Midlands.
November 5.

From Mr E. J. Nickson

Sir, If it is possible to entitle, and *sell*, a product called *I Can't Believe It's Not Butter*, then I can't believe it would be difficult to find an acceptable name for milk chocolate.

Yours sincerely,
E. J. NICKSON,
60 Aspin Oval,
Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

Oxbridge fees

From Sir John Kingman, FRS,
Vice-Chancellor of the
University of Bristol

Sir, The well orchestrated campaign to defend college fees at Oxford and Cambridge (report, November 6) will culminate on November 12 in a debate in the Lords, where the two universities are strongly represented.

Will their lordships and the Government remember that there are other universities which reach international standards in research, and which teach difficult subjects to the ablest young people, without the benefit of this additional public money?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KINGMAN,
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Bristol,
Senate House, Bristol BS8 1TH.
November 6.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Papal remorse for treatment of Jews

From Dr Hyam Maccoby

Sir, The declaration of apology by the Pope for Christian anti-Judaism is welcome (letter, November 4) but if another Holocaust is to be prevented a proper understanding of the causes of the extraordinary malevolence shown towards the Jews in Christian Europe must be sought.

The medieval persecutions of the Jews were deprecated by some of the Popes, and by certain saintly figures such as Bernard of Clairvaux. There are analogies here with the present Pope's remorse for the Christian role in the Holocaust.

In the Middle Ages, the Jews were demonised by Christian society as usurers, Christ-killers, and poisoners of wells, and were reduced to pariah status. This image (sedulously fostered by the lower clergy and by Christian art, including the horrific Passion Plays) led to sporadic massacres and expulsions.

When eventually the Jews were emancipated and were allowed to enter the professions, a murderous resentment grew against their progress. This, transmuted into secular guises of racialism and anti-Bolshevism, led, in circumstances of economic crisis in Germany, to the Holocaust. The Untouchables of India are experiencing a similar sequence of events, on a milder scale. Secular arguments are advanced against them, but the underlying historical causation is religious.

The only hope for genuine reconciliation between Christians and Jews lies in radical revision of Christian teaching about the Jews, including the idea that Judaism is an obsolete religion superseded by Christianity. Toleration based on saintly forbearance or contrition will not survive in times of economic or political crisis, when traditional hatreds will surface once again.

Yours faithfully,
HYAM MACCOBY,
115 Mortlake Road, Kew, Surrey.
November 4.

From Miss Felicity O'Brien

Sir, Some would like to see a condemnation of Pope Pius XII for what he did not say or do in relation to the Jews during the Second World War. But, in January 1945, an extreme Fascist, Roberto Farinacci, castigated Pope Pius for what he *had* said and done:

> For a few years Pope Pius XII has fully espoused the Jewish cause to the point of offending the sensibilities of his flock . . . We never imagined that our Pastor, the Vicar of Christ, the Head of our Church could one day be regarded as the most influential defender of the interests of the Jewish people. True enough, the war turns people upside down and creates absurdity. (Quoted in Owen Chadwick's *Britain and the Vatican during the Second World War*, p. 307)

Yours faithfully,
FELICITY O'BRIEN,
281a Crescent Drive,
Petts Wood, Kent.
November 3.

Pearl of the South

From Councillor Duncan Bamford

Sir, You report today that Geoffrey Boycott is considering moving from Yorkshire to the enchanting Sandbanks peninsula "in Bournemouth". I regret to have to inform you that Sandbanks is one of the many superb beaches belonging to the Borough of Poole, Dorset, whence cometh all beautiful things, the most lovely being my wife, Jean.

Yours geographically,
D. J. BAMFORD,
18 Restrop View,
Purton, Swindon, Wiltshire.
November 5.

Wrong address?

From Mr Oliver L. Shaw

Sir, There is all the world of difference between merely *considering* a problem (Mr Ivan Slee's letter, today), ie, thinking about it and evaluating the options, and actually *addressing* it. The latter involves also taking appropriate practical steps to solve it.

In my business life, as a financial consultant, I know only too well that certain of my clients never progress beyond merely considering the problem.

Yours sincerely,
O. L. SHAW,
New House Farm, Highleadon,
Newent, Gloucestershire.
November 1.

From Mr W. Gordon McPherson

Sir, You "address" a golf ball before you hit it — you address the task of writing a letter, such as this, before "considering" how to phrase it.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
W. G. McPHERSON,
37 Granary Street,
Huntly, Aberdeenshire.
November 1.

From Mr Howard Lamb

Sir, Mr Slee is puzzled why problems today are addressed "as if they were golf balls".

What puzzles me is why golf balls have to be addressed. Shouldn't they just be hit?

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD LAMB,
North Bank,
75 Ridge Way, Wargrave, Berkshire.
November 1.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 6: Mr Justice Hughes was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

His Excellency Mr Adel El Gazzar was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Court of St James's.

Mrs El Gazzar was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was received in audience by The Queen.

His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians was received by Her Majesty.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was present.

The President of the French Republic visited The Queen this afternoon and remained to Tea.

The Duke of Edinburgh today attended a Luncheon at the Four Seasons Hotel, 300 South Doheny Drive, Los Angeles, United States of America, for the British and American Chambers of Commerce in Los Angeles and Orange County and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (Los Angeles).

November 6: The Duke of York, Patron, this afternoon attended a rehearsal of the City Ballet of London at the Studio Centre, York Way, King's Cross, London N1.

November 6: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, concluded his visit to New Zealand with the following engagements.

His Royal Highness this morning flew to Dunedin and attended a Gold Award ceremony at the Dunedin Centre, followed by a Reception for the recipients.

The Prince Edward afterwards attended a World Fellowship Luncheon at the Dunedin Club.

His Royal Highness this afternoon flew to Christchurch and attended a Gold Award ceremony in the Town Hall, followed by a Reception for the recipients.

The Prince Edward later attended a New Zealand Award garden party in Fendalton, Christchurch.

His Royal Highness this evening left Auckland for London.

November 6: The Princess Royal this morning visited the Aberdeen Maritime Museum, Ship Row, Aberdeen, and was received by Mr Leslie Robertson (Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Horizons Rehabilitation Centre, Eday Road, Aberdeen.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, later attended the Young People's Seminar on board *HMY Britannia*, Aberdeen.

Her Royal Highness, President, *Animal Health Trust*, this evening held a Reception and Dinner on board the Royal Yacht.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 6: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, accompanied by The Duke of York, this morning planted a Cross of Remembrance in the Royal British Legion Field of Remembrance at St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox, Major Raymond Seymour, Major Charles MacEwan and Major Timothy Allan were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 6: The Prince of Wales this *morning arrived at Heathrow Airport*, London from South Africa.

Mr Nicholas Archer, Lieutenant Commander John Lavery RN and Miss Sandy Henney were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 6: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Colonel-in-Chief, The Light Dragoons, this evening attended the Officers' Annual Dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, London W1.

November 6: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the Homeopathic Trust for Research and Education, this afternoon received Mr Robert Chris upon relinquishing his appointment as Chairman and Dr David Spence upon assuming the appointment.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon opened Homelands Hall for Christchurch Housing Society, Homelands, Kings Avenue, Christchurch, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset (the Lord Digby).

Her Royal Highness afterwards opened Riversmeet Court for Twynham Housing Association and HyPed (Homeless Young People in Eastern Dorset), Stony Lane South, Christchurch.

YORK HOUSE
November 6: The Duke of Kent this evening attended a Gala Concert at the Wigmore Hall, London W1.

Luncheon

Newspaper Society
The Newspaper Society hosted a luncheon in honour of Lord Kingsland, QC, yesterday at Bloomsbury House, London WC1. Mr Fred Johnston, Chairman of Johnston Press, presided. Among those present were:
The Chairman of the *Kent Messenger* Group, the Chairman of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, the Group Chief Executive of Bristol United Press, the Chief Executive of the *Jewish Chronicle*, the Group General Manager of Northcliffe Newspapers, the Managing Director of Shropshire Newspapers, the Managing Director of *Staffordshire Newsletter*, the Managing Director of CN Group, the Managing Director of Cambridge Newspapers, the Editor of the Leicester Mercury Group and the parliamentary correspondent, Southern Newspapers.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit Gorse Hill Infants School, Swindon at 11.20; will visit the National Monuments Record Centre at 11.50; will visit the Brunel Centre at 12.25; will visit Lydiard Park at 12.55; will visit Focus at 2.55; and will visit the Civic Offices at 3.30.

The Princess Royal, as president, Save the Children Fund, will visit the shop at 55 Newmarket Street, Ayr, at 10.30; as president, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit the South Ayrshire Carers Centre, 40-44 Newmarket Street, Ayr, at 10.40; will open Keopon Produce factory, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, at 12.50; and will visit the new cinema, 35 Victoria Street, at 2.30.

Princess Margaret will visit the Princess Margaret Royal Free School, Windsor, Berkshire, at 3.00 and open the Information Technology Centre.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, Medical Women's Federation, will attend a reception at the Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, SW7, at 6.55 to mark the 80th anniversary of the federation; and as president, Royal London Society for the Blind, will attend the Limelight Ball at the Dorchester Hotel, at 7.45.

The Duke of Kent, president, Royal Institution of Great Britain, will attend a discourse given by Mr Laurie Hall, Albemarle Street, W1, at 8.35.

Sir Gilbert Longden

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Sir Gilbert James Morley Longden, MBE, will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton Road, on Thursday, December 11, at noon.

John Garnett

A Memorial Service will be held for the life and work of John Garnett, CBE, at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, WC2, on Thursday, December 4, 1997, at 4.30pm. Tickets are available from The Society Secretary, 48 Bryanston Square, London, W1. Tel: 0171 262 2401. A reception will be held at The Industrial Society afterwards.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Marie Curie, chemist, Nobel laureate 1903 and 1911, Warsaw, 1867; Leo Trotsky, Russian Revolution leader, Yanovka, 1879.

DEATHS: Geoffrey Dawson, Editor of *The Times* 1912-19, 1923-41, London, 1944; John Carmel Heenan, cardinal, Archbishop of Westminster 1963-75, London, 1975; Gene Tunney, world heavyweight boxing champion 1926-28, 1978; Steve McQueen, film actor, Mexico, 1980.

Service dinners

The Light Dragoons
Princess Margaret, Colonel-in-Chief of The Light Dragoons, attended the annual officers dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Brigadier C.A.G. Wells, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

Southampton University Royal Naval Unit
Captain A.N. Du Port, Deputy Director Training and Recruiting, Southampton University Royal Naval Unit, proposed the toast to the Immortal Memory of Admiral Nelson at a Trafalgar Night Dinner held last night at Capella House, Southampton. Lieutenant-Commander D.J. Wyatt presided.

7th Middlesex Officers' Club
Lieutenant-Colonel R.A. Ingleby-Mackenzie, *Commanding Officer*, The London Regiment, and Captain J. Bulley, The London Regiment, were the principal guests at the annual dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club held last night at Clapham. Lieutenant-Colonel J.D. Gunnell presided.

Naval and Military Club
His Honour Sir William Macpherson of Cluny was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Naval and Military Club held last night at the club.

No 1 RAF Officers' Mess, Farnborough
Officers of the Royal Navy serving at the Defence Research and Evaluation Agency, Farnborough entertained members of No 1 RAF Officers' Mess at a dinner held last night at RAF Farnborough to mark the 57th anniversary of the Battle of Taranto. Commander M.F. Phillips presided. Rear-Admiral R.T.R. Phillips, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff, Operational Requirements (Sea) was the principal guest.

Service reception

Royal College of Defence Studies
Lieutenant-General S.C. Grant, *Commandant*, Royal College of Defence Studies, and Mrs Grant, with members of the college and their ladies, received the guests at a reception held last night at Seaford House, Belgravia, for ambassadors, defence advisers, service chiefs and friends of the college.

Reception

Anglo-Indonesian Society
Mr Henry C Hainworth, Chairman of the Anglo-Indonesian Society, was the host at a reception held last night at the Cavendish Conference Centre, London W1 to welcome the Indonesian Ambassador and Mrs Rahardjo Jamtomo to London.

Su Pollard, the actress, is 48 today

Birthdays today

Mr Ian Balding, racehorse trainer, 59; Mr John Barnes, footballer, 34; Air Marshal Sir John Donald, 70; Sir John Egan, chief executive, BAA, 58; the Rev Professor Christopher Evans, FBA, theologian, 88; Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, former MP, 52; Dr Billy Graham, evangelist, 79; Mrs Lucinda Green, horsewoman, 44; Lord Greenhill of Harrow, 84; Mr John Grieves, former senior partner, Freshfields, 62; Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt, 67; Mr Michael Jackaman, former chairman, Allied Domecq, 62; Dame Gwyneth Jones, soprano, 61; Mr Wolf Mankowitz, author, 73; Mr Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, ICI, 58; Mr Jonathan Palmer, racing driver, 41; Dr Ralegh Radford, FBA, archaeologist, 97; Air Marshal Sir Ronald Stuart-Paul, 63; Dame Joan Sutherland, OM, soprano, 71; Mrs Helen Suzman, DBE, South African politician, 80; Viscount Tenby, 70; Sir Anthony Wheeler, former President, Royal Scottish Academy, 78; Baroness White, 88; Mr Peter Wilby, former Editor, *The Independent on Sunday*, 53.

The Institute of Export

May 1997 Examination Results

The Professional Examination Part I/Advanced Certificate in Overseas Trade

Passes were awarded to the following candidates who satisfied the examiners in Principles of Marketing, Principles of Law Relating to Overseas Trade, International Trade and Payments and International Physical Distribution:

Anthony, V F X, Dept of Employment and Educn; Antoine, O; Aranda-Martinez, F J; Armstrong, P; Ashley, M K, Howmet; Baker, S J Miss, Graham & Brown; *Barcroft, M A, Business Advance; *Bartoll, A, Lighthouse Toys; *Baxter, S Miss, Curtis Fine Papers; *Bayley, J G; *Beamonte, M Miss, Hyperactive Gp; Beckett, H A Mrs, Elizabeth Carter; Bentley, A Miss, World Minerals; *Bentley, M; *Birch, E J Miss, European Colour (Pigments); Bishop, A J Ms, P & O, Ned-Lloyd Global Logistics; Bowman, C A Miss, Mothercare UK; Brace, M J, ICL Internat; Brill, R L, Bastone & Firminger; Brockbank, L, Brit Aerospace Defence; Brooke, M L, NCM Credit Insurance; *Brown, E Miss, Andrew Wishart; Burke, J D, NCM Credit Ins; *Burton, D Mrs, Groupe Schneider; *Cameron, I R Ms, Genesis Flowers; *Campbell, N J, Eschmann Bros & Walsh; Cherrington, B Mrs, Arotech UK; Choules, E C Miss, Mineral & Technical Servs; Clegg, A Mrs, Whitley Willows; Cochrane, W L Mrs, Sanyo Gallenkamp; *Coward, A J Miss, Gradus; Dannatt, R Miss, Cosalt Internat; *Dee C E Mrs, Symphony Group; Dixon, J M Mrs, Brit Aerospace Defence; Douglas, B Mrs, Brimax Internat (UK); *East, B R, Moores Furniture Gp; Eaton, L C Ms, Mallinck Rodt Chemicals; Eatough, C L Mrs, F D Sims; *Egginton, G M Ms, Hepworth Building Prods Internat; *Egoh, D; *Einarson, E Miss; *Enciso, E Mrs, Liverpool Ch of Commerce; Fisher, E E Miss, Sanoda; *Fisher, W A Mrs, BICC Cables; Fletcher, I Henry Ansbacher; *Flint, P J, Fastnet Systems; Foskett, M J, The Jacob's Bakery; Foulkes, C L, Dowty Seals; Furnell, R D, Advent Communications; *Gallagher, D, Unipath; Gillard, E L Miss, Special Melted Products; Gladwell, H, Business Link Shropshire; *Gordon, J Miss, GEC-Marconi; Goring, K E Mrs, Long Eaton Fabrics (Div of Courtaulds); Goulding, J Miss, Ingersoll Rand European Sales; Graham, L A Ms, Drambuie; *Guzowski, H A Mrs, Gripperrods; *Hall, A L Miss, Dedicated Micros; *Hall, J H Mrs, ABT Films; Hardwick, L L Miss, Brit Aerospace Defence; *Harris, P W, Van Den Bergh Foods; *Hayter, E J Mrs, Racal Radio; Hicks, J E, Arthur Andersen; Hiscock, T P, North Staffs Ch of Commerce; *Hodder, H J Miss, Aspect Vision Care; Hodge, M J Mrs, John Crane UK; Hogan, R C Miss, Guy Birkin; *House, J A G; *Howarth, J Miss, Galleon Seafoods; Hughes, G Miss, Knitmesh; *Hughes, S R Miss, GEC Marconi Avionics; *Hunt, P A, Falcon Shipg; *Hutchinson, D I; Hylton, L M Ms, Uniqey Security; Jackson, C, WTA Airfreight; Jarratt, L S Miss, Courtaulds Textiles; *Jewitt, C A M Miss, Curtis Fine Papers; Kelman, D J, Platt Haworth; *Kemp, D W, Allenwest Brentford; *Khan, N, Triton Assocs; King, A A D, Jordans; Kombet, J Y, Telco Global Communications; Kpah, D K; Lamb, P T; Leve, J A; *Lindsay, N, Brit Aerospace Defence; Lloyd, W A, Buck & Lloyd (Sheffield); *Macdonald, S M S Miss, Compugraphics Internat; *Mackie, P R, Pfaudler-Balfour; Malecic, Z, BRC; Martinelli, L J Mrs, Roche Prods; Mather, M S, Brit Aerospace Defence; *Matthews, S J, NCM Credit Ins; McDonald, R S Miss, Edward Hall; McDonald, R; McGee, D Mrs, Rykneld Tean; McLean, S Miss, Thomas Broadbent; McNamee, H Mrs, F2 Chems; *Milne, L Miss, Trade Indemnity; *Minshull, J L Miss, Pegasus Airwave; Moonan, A Miss, Panalpina World Transport; *Moore, A L Miss, Next Dimension; *Morgan, A J, St Charles Catholic Sixth Form Coll; *Morgan, G E Miss, Brit Aerospace Defence; *Moseley, S M J Mrs, Label Ink; Newby, K J, Brit Aerospace Defence; Ohri, T Miss, Haropa Prods; O'Reilly, D P C Ms, Commencements; *Osman, R A; *Palmer, R Mrs, UCI Logistics; Park, N S, Ring Gp; Parry, S J, NCM Credit Ins; *Porter, A K Mrs, Consolidated Chems; *Proctor, D M, Devon Valley Inds; *Prodovsky, L, Zlaty Basant a s Slovakia; *Quilis-Sanz, F, Textainer Equipment Management; Rainford, N J Miss, Qatar Airways; *Richards, O K; Robinson, K, Roundwood Bar; *Rooney, C E Miss, Rectella; Savage, E L Miss, Dickinson Eng; Schafer, C Miss; Shoukat, L Mrs, Mid Yorks Ch of Commerce; Sissons, R C; Spence, R, Dunlop, Metalastik Vibration Control Systems; Stawecki, A Mrs, RHM Ingredients; *Stefanuti, G T Ms, Chem Resist; *Stirk, M J, Anglo Overseas Transport; *Strack, J, Golden Wonder; Sutton, R Miss, Plenty; Sykes, C A, Craven (Exporting); *Tallis, K M Mrs, LDV; Tassello, A C Miss; *Thicket, K J A Miss, Astracast; *Towns, M F Miss, ICL; *Townsend, M G, Joseph Mason; Tranter, J Miss, Lawson Mardon Star; *Trickey, A C M Miss, Goethe Management; Turnbull, R J, Edinburgh Crystal; Vidal, W G C; Wahuho, D; Watson, E Mrs, Totland; Whiteley, C P; Whyatt, A D; Wilkins, J, Seh Europe; *Wilkinson, C F G, Tas Internat; *Williams, E Miss, Export Assoc, Welshpool; *Witham, A A (I), Yates Internat; *Woodings, L J, Microfine Minerals.

* Distinction in at least one paper

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J.M. Brett and Miss S.E. Bibby
The engagement is announced between Daniel, youngest son of Canon and Mrs Peter Brett, of Canterbury, and *Sarah, daughter* of Mr and Mrs Richard Bibby, of Stanhope, County Durham.

Mr R.E.J. Gray and Miss C.E.L. Macpherson
The engagement is announced between Richard Edmund John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Edmund Gray, of Elmbridge, Worcestershire, and Caroline Emma Louisa, eldest daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Ian Macpherson, of East Worlington, Devon.

Mr R.J. Harris and Miss N. Richards
The engagement is announced between Russell, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.E. Harris, of Gilwern, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Richards, of Swansea.

Mr H.M.R. Lumby and Miss N.H. Marchant
The engagement is announced between Hugh, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Antony Lumby, of North Cheriton, Somerset, and Natalie, daughter of Captain and Mrs Michael Marchant, of Woking, Surrey.

Mr J.W. Taylor and Miss A.H.M. Lewis
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr J.B. Taylor and the late Mrs Taylor, of Dulwich, London, and Alice, third daughter of His Honour Judge Esyr Lewis, QC, and Mrs Lewis, of Gray's Inn, London.

Mr P.N. Hussey and Miss N.J. Harney
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Hussey, of Woodham, Surrey, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Harney, of Cavendish, Suffolk.

Mr G.C.S. Taylor and Miss C. MacGillivray
The engagement is announced between Graeme Charles Stuart Taylor, of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Clare MacGillivray, of Islington, London.

Dr C.J. Thornhill and Lady Hermione Graham
The engagement is announced between Christopher John, son of Mr Hugh Thornhill and Mrs Marian Wilkinson, of Haworth, Yorkshire, and Hermione Elizabeth, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Montrose.

Mr M.B. Waterman and Miss G.A. Adams
The engagement is announced between Marc, elder son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Waterman, of Middlesex, and Gisèle, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Adams, of London, W2.

Marriage

Mr B.J. Goldsmith and *Miss Ö. Reynisdóttur*
The marriage took place on October 25, at Bar-Sur-Loup, France, of Bruce, son of Mr and Mrs John Goldsmith, of Fordingbridge, Hampshire, to Örnu, daughter of Anna Charlesdóttir and Reynir Gunnar Hjálmtýsson, of Iceland.

Dinners

Royal Warrant Holders
Mr Alan Britten, President of the Royal Warrant Holders Association, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Grosvenor House. The Earl of Lichfield and Lord Blyth of Rowington spoke.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Professor W.P.T. James, Mr Michael P. Mackenzie and Ms Sheila McKechnie were the speakers.

Defence, Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee
The Defence, Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee held a dinner last night at Admiralty House to mark the retirement of the Vice Chairman, Mr Alastair Stuart. Mr Richard Mottram, Chairman of the Committee, presided.

London Solicitors Litigation Association (LSLA)
The London Solicitors Litigation Association held its Annual Dinner last night at the Law Society's Hall. The President, Mr Richard Evans and Mrs Elisabetta Evans along with the Committee of the LSLA were hosts to the Solicitor General, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, QC, Lady Falconer, Mr Joshua Rozenberg (BBC Legal Correspondent) and other distinguished guests.

At Home

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor was At Home at the Mansion House yesterday to members of the Court of Aldermen, Court of Common Council, representatives of the Church, City and Civic organisations, HM Judiciary and City Livery Companies and their ladies.

Service luncheon

4th Indian Division
The 4th Indian Division (1939-1947) Officers' Association held their annual luncheon yesterday at the Naval and Military Club. Major R.J. Henderson, chairman, presided. Colonel Viscount Slim was among the guests.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Weep for the dead: he has taken leave of the light; weep for the fool: he has taken leave of his wits. Weep less bitterly for the dead, for he is at rest; but the fool's life is worse than death. Ecclesiasticus 22 : 11

BIRTHS

ADAMSON - On October 28th 1997 at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, to Jenny (née Hall) and Chris, a son, Jack, a brother for Jazz. Happy 4th Birthday Jazz.

ATHERTON - On November 5th 1997, to Juliet (née Alexander) and Paul, a daughter, Florence Rose Alexander, a sister for Scarlett.

AYLIFFE - On November 1st at Chelsea and Westminster, to Louise and Will, a son, Frederick (Freddie) Jack.

BAND - On 4th November at Salt Lake City, Utah, to Neil and Melissa, a precious son, Noah, grandson for Suzanne and Eric Band of Beckenham, Kent and Sandra Kahn of Ogden, Utah, U.S.A.

BERKO - On October 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Carole (née Simons) and David, a daughter, Sabrina Eve Grace, a sister for Dominic and Cameron.

FACON - On October 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Nicola (née Ferrier) and Bertrand, a son, James, a brother for Thomas.

FOLKESTONE - On November 4th, to William and Moo, a daughter.

HICKS - On November 4th, to Philippa (née Burge) and Edward, a daughter, Francesca Elizabeth.

JAGGS - On October 23rd, to Richard and Rebecca, a daughter, Isabel Catherine, a sister for Thomas.

JOHNSON - To Sarah (née Thompson) and Daniel, on November 6th at home in West London, a daughter, Agatha Charlotte Elfride, a sister for Tycho, Edith and Leo.

MASSEY - On November 2nd 1997 at the East Surrey Hospital, to Alison (née Akerman) and William, a son, Oliver Frank Orgill, a brother for Tom.

PETERMAN - On October 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Renata and Neil, a son, Samuel Marc Elijah, a brother for Lily.

PETTIFER - On 5th November 1997 at Wycombe Hospital, to Sarah (née Churchill) and Geoff, a son, Alfie Geoffrey, a brother for Rosie. God Bless.

STEFANOU - On 4th November 1997 at the Royal Free Hampstead to Katherine (née Bolger) and Nicholas, a son, Patroklos Nicholas.

STRICKLAND - On October 26th, to Ivan and Clare (née Robins) Strickland, a son, William Henry.

YOUNG - On November 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Holly (née Bellingham) and John, a son, Andrew John Bellingham, an adorable brother for gorgeous Sophia.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

WOODBURN-BAMBERGER-LIRE - Cecil D. CBE married Beth at Caxton Hall Registry Office on 7th November 1947. Present address: 6 Seymour Place, Odiham, Hampshire RG29 1AY.

DEATHS

ANDERSON TYRER - On November 4th 1997 in a London hospital, Adrian, deeply loving and beloved husband of Lesley, devoted father, father-in-law and grandfather. A perfect gentle knight. Funeral service and interment at St James-the-Less, Nutley, E. Sussex, on Thursday November 13th at 11 am. Enquiries, flowers or if desired donations to Nutley P.C.C. A/C (Churchyard Guild) c/o R.A. Brooks & Son, Ravenoak, Allington Road, Newick, E. Sussex, tel: (01825) 722896 or (01444) 454391.

BAILEY - Colin, F.I.Mech.E. died peacefully on 5th November at West Wittering Nursing Home. Beloved husband of the late Emily, loving father of Anne and Margaret, much loved and devoted grandfather of Sarah, Charlotte and Helen and a dear brother, uncle and father-in-law. Funeral at Church of St Peter & St Paul, West Wittering on Wednesday 12th November 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The Sussex Snowdrop Trust Respite Care c/o Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester (01243) 782136.

BAYLEY - On November 4th, 1997. Daphne Helen (née Froome) of Lostwithiel, Cornwall. Beloved wife of Tom. Funeral Service Wednesday November 12th, 11.30 am at St Bartholomews Church. No flowers please. Donations if desired for Macmillan Nursing Service or Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Ken Newcombe Funeral Home, Bucklers Lane, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 3JN.

BERLIN - Sir Isaiah on 5th November at the Acland Hospital, Oxford, aged 88, husband of Aline and stepfather of Michel Strauss, Peter Halban and Philippe Halban. Funeral private.

BUCKLEY - On 5th November 1997 in hospital, suddenly. Julia Margaret (née Johnston). Beloved wife of Norman. A much loved daughter, sister and devoted mother of Alexander, Celeste and Edward. Dearly loved. Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium on Wednesday 12th November at 3.30 pm. All flowers and enquiries please to J.H. Kenyon (0171) 937-0757.

DICKSON - Yvonne (Yve) née Marrack, died peacefully at her home at Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire on 5th November 1997, aged 87, after illness bravely borne. Beloved wife of Ken, and wonderful mother to Jane and John. Team Leader of 124 Friends Relief *Service, Goslar-Am-Hartz* Germany 1945-7. Following a private burial service in the morning of Monday 10th November 1997, there will be a Thanksgiving Service at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. At her request any donations please to *Little Gaddesden* Church. She felt St Paul's words; "Know ye that the spirit of God dwelleth in you", were the bedrock of Christian life. Enquiries to Malcolm Jones & Metcalfe, tel: (01442) 864848.

FALK - *John Anderson* died peacefully on October 23rd aged 87 at home in Wiltshire. Private cremation. Memorial to be announced.

FRASER - On 3rd November 1997 peacefully at home, Anita, beloved wife of Mikey, mother of Brian and Cheryl, sister to Eric, Robert, Walter, Victor, Jerome, Elrita, Mary, Valvina and Ella, grandmother to Rudi and Kim. Will be sadly missed.

GLOVER - On *November* 5th 1997 Phyllis Muriel aged 94 years of Yew Tree Cottage, Pytchley, much loved aunt of Alyson and Gina Glover, devoted great-aunt of Adrian, Tania and William Spooner, Max and Tom Lousada, Jessica Rayner and great-great-aunt of Molly Moody and Edward Spooner. Funeral Service at Pytchley Parish Church on Friday November 14th at 2.30 pm. Family *flowers* only please but if desired donations for Pytchley Parish Church c/o Jack Warwick Funeral Director, tel: Kettering (01536) 485635.

GORDON - Major General Desmond Spencer Gordon CB CBE DSO KStJ JP DL, peacefully in Odiham Cottage Hospital on Tuesday 4th November after a long illness. Beloved husband of Sybil, adored father of Adrian and Rosemary and grandfather of Sarah, Jamie, Jason and Charlie and great-grandfather of Camilla, Annabelle, Alice and Max. Funeral and Thanksgiving Service at Odiham Parish Church Thursday 13th November at 2 pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to The Green Howards Regimental Fund or to St John Fellowship c/o E. Finch & Sons tel: 01252 322281.

GREEN - *Lavinia*, peacefully on 5th November aged 98, widow of Lt. Col. Howard Green, much loved mother of Bluebell, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral 2 pm Tuesday 11th November at St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster, near Arundel. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St Richards Hospital Equipment Appeal, Chichester, PO19 4BR.

GRIFFITH - On 4th November 1997 at Welbourn Hall Nursing Home, Lincoln in her 95th year, Irene Frances beloved wife of the late Harold J.J. Griffith, dear mother of Penny and a loved and appreciated grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Lincoln Crematorium on Thursday 13th November at 1.10 pm. No flowers by request.

LAZAR - Leonard on Tuesday 4th November, barrister, poet, artist and musician, dearly loved husband of *Primrose*. Funeral at Kerno Chapel, Penmount Crematorium, Truro, Wednesday 12th November, 12.20 pm. Enquiries to F/D: R.D. Burroughs, Penzance, tel: 01736 364062.

MAGEE - On November 5th 1997 Charles Ciaran peacefully at home aged 88. Beloved husband of Rena and father of Neil and Oonagh. Will also be sadly missed as a grandfather and stepfather. Requiem Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Muswell, N10, on Tuesday November 11th at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only, but if desired donations in his memory to the Parkinson's Disease Society c/o A. France & Son, 45 Lambs Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NH.

MALCOLM - Suddenly at home on 3rd November, Ruth Margaret Poyer, aged 88, widow of Colin, mother of Ian and Alastair and grandmother of Andrew and William. Funeral arrangements to be announced.

MARTIN - George on November 5th at Old Alresford, Hants. He was thoughtfully cared for by the staff and will be much missed by his loving wife. Service at Aldershot Crematorium on Wednesday November 12th at 10.30 am. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester SO23 0HU.

MOORE - Carl Christian died peacefully after a short illness in hospital on 3rd November 1997. Much loved father of Veronica and husband of the late Edith (née Blight). Service to be held at Ipswich Crematorium on Friday 14th November at 1.45 pm. No flowers by request. Donations if desired payable to the R.S.P.C.A. may be sent to Farthing, Singleton & Hastings, 660 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4PW.

MORRIS - Peacefully at Vale of Leven Hospital on 6th November after a short illness, Eric William, much loved husband of *Rosa*, beloved father of Susan, Paul, Julian and Aileen and a much loved grandfather. Service at Cardross Crematorium on Saturday 8th November 9.45 am. In tribute to Eric, any contributions to Cancer Research would be welcome.

NICHOLLS - On October 24th 1997, John Reginald, aged 70 years. Funeral Service at St John the Evangelist, Wembley High Road, Wembley, Middlesex on Thursday November 13th at 2 pm, followed by cremation at Golders Green at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to The North London Hospice, c/o J.H. Kenyon Ltd. All enquiries please (0171) 937-0757.

ORTON - The Funeral Service for the late Amelia Ada Orton will take place at St James Church, Harvington, Evesham on Wednesday November 12th at 12 noon, followed by interment in the Churchyard.

POPHAM - Helen Patricia (Patsy) (née Hancock) peacefully at the age of 66 on November 3rd. Much loved wife of Gordon (deceased) and mother of Mark, Matthew, Stephen, Mary, Lizzy and Francis, and grandmother of Richard, Rachel and Ossie. Funeral Service, 12 noon, Wednesday, November 12th at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Haslemere, Surrey, followed by burial at All Saints Parish Church, Grayswood. Flowers to G.M. Luff & Partners, 84 Lion Lane, Haslemere (01428 643524).

QUINTAVALLE - Count Uberto Paolo suddenly in New York on November 3rd 1997. With great sadness Josephine, Bruno, Sisto, Anton, Rufo and Livio mourn the death of a loving and loved husband and father. Requiem Mass will be in Milan on Monday November 10th, followed by private burial. For further details please contact Fossati, Milan, tel: 00 392 551 3026.

SINCLAIR HOGG - Gillian Evaline Ruth on 1st November after a long illness bravely borne aged 70 years at Steeton Court Nursing Home, Keighley, West Yorkshire (formerly of London W8). Devoted mother and grandmother. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends. Funeral will take place at Christ Church, Eldon Road, London W8 on Monday 10th November at 10 am followed by private interment. Family flowers only but donations in lieu to Gillian Sinclair Music Trust c/o Penningtons Solicitors, of Phoenix House, 9 London Road, Newbury, Berks. RG14 1DH.

THACKER - Fr. Eric Lee. R.I.P. Died suddenly at his home in Leeds on Wednesday 5th November aged 74 years. Funeral Service will take place in Leeds, for all enquiries to William Dodgson & Son, tel: 0113 2498849.

WESTCOTT - Née Ballard on November 4th 1997 Kathleen Hilda wife of the late Graham. The Funeral Service will take place on Thursday 13th November at Wolvercote Cemetery Chapel, Oxford at 12 noon. Flowers please to A.W. Bruce, Funeral Directors, 29 Rogers Street, Summertown, Oxford by 10 am.

WIELER - Major Denis Leslie Eric Wieler KOYLI (Retired) on 31st October. Funeral on Monday 10th November at 3pm, St Peter's Church, Hambledon, Surrey.

WOOD - On November 1st in hospital after a brief illness, Michael, aged 80 years, formerly of Winchester. Brother of Joan Sturdy, Jeremy and Humphrey. Private cremation. Memorial Service at St John the Baptist Church, Burley, Hampshire on Friday 28th November at 2.30 pm.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ROWSE - A Memorial Service for Dr. A.L. Rowse C.H. will be held at St Austell Parish Church on Thursday December 4th 1997 at 2 pm. A memorial service will also be held in Oxford at a later date.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

FISHER - A Service of *Thanksgiving for the life of* Dr. Oliver Duncan Fisher will be held in Rochester Cathedral, Rochester, Kent, on Monday 17th November 1997, at noon. All are welcome.

FOORD - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Anthony Foord, DFC, will be held on Thursday November 20th 1997 at 2 pm in Aldeburgh Parish Church.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

CUMMER - Fredrick. Wishing your absence was only a dream. Stella.

BIRTHDAYS

CHANG: At last, my young twin, we are the same age, and no longer separated. Eng.

DEAREST Peregrine: It's your Birthday, too. With love always from Daisy.

JEREMIAH Spenzie: That's 364 in Bassett years.

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LEGAL NOTICES

MSSR (HOLDINGS) LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at Foxhall Lodge, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, NG7 6LH on 24 November 1997 at 10.15am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Foxhall Lodge, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, NG7 6LH not later than 12 noon on 23rd November 1997.

For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Foxhall Lodge, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, NG7 6LH, before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.

Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses, of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Foxhall Lodge, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, NG2 6LH between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.

By Order of the Board
Michael Sanders, Director

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No. 004979 of 1997
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF CONSOLIDATED LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF FINANCIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 7th day of October 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice by the above-named Consolidated Life Assurance Company Limited (hereinafter called "CLAC") for

(1) the sanction under Part I of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982 to a Scheme (hereinafter called the "Scheme") providing for the transfer by CLAC of the whole of its long term insurance business to Financial Assurance Company Limited (hereinafter called "FACL"); and

(2) an Order making ancillary provision in connection with the said transfer under paragraph 5 of Schedule 2C to the said Act.

Copies of the Petition, the Scheme and a report by an independent actuary in pursuance of the said Part I of Schedule 2C may be inspected at the offices specified in the Schedule hereto during usual business hours for a period of 21 days from the publication of this Notice.

The Petition is directed to be heard before a Judge of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on Monday 1st December 1997 and any person including any employee of CLAC or FACL who claims to be adversely affected by the Scheme may appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel.

Any person who intends so to appear, and any policyholder of CLAC or FACL who dissents from the Scheme but does not intend so to appear, should give not less than two clear days' prior notice in writing of such intention or dissent, and for the reasons therefor, to the Solicitors named below.

Copies of the documents specified above will be furnished by such Solicitors to any person requiring them prior to the making of an order sanctioning the Scheme on payment of the prescribed charge for the same.

Dated this 7th day of November 1997

Brough Skerrett
One Dyers Buildings
London EC1N 2SX
Solicitors for Consolidated Life Assurance Company Limited

SCHEDULE
(1) Vantage West, Great West Road, Brentford, TW8 9AG
(2) Aleksanterinkatu 19A, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
(3) Edificio Presidência, Av Miguel Bombarda 36-12° A, 1050 Lisboa, Portugal
(4) One Dyers Buildings, London EC1N 2SX

LEGAL NOTICES

NEW CONVERTIBLE INVESTMENT TRUST PLC
(In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)

On 30th October 1997 the above named company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Phillip Rodney Sykes and Iain Thomas Watters of 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PS, were appointed Joint Liquidators by the Members.

The Joint Liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Iain Thomas Watters, 18 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DF by 30th November 1997.

The Joint Liquidators also give notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 31st December 1997 they intend to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 30th November 1997 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.

The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.

P R Sykes, Joint Liquidator

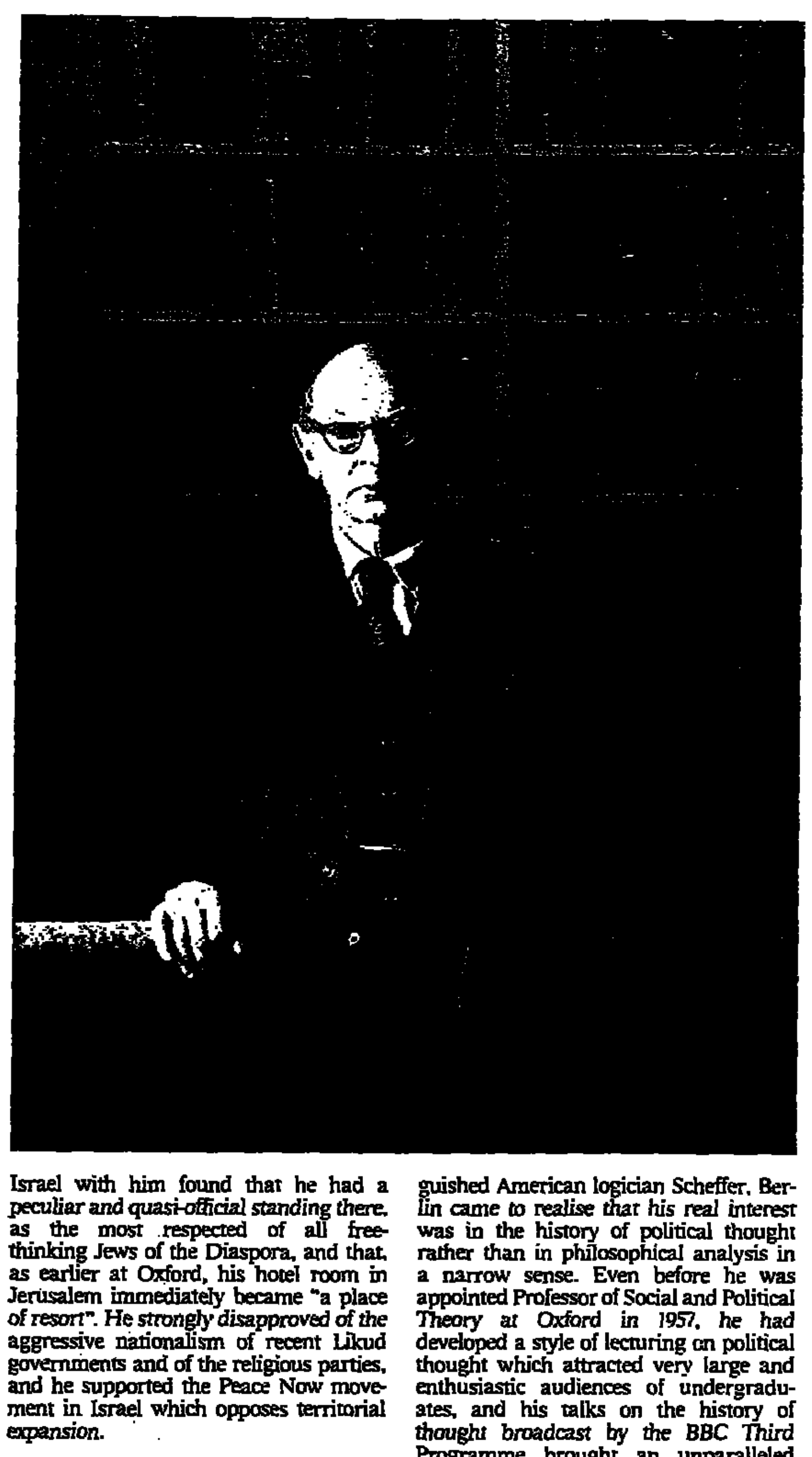
LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171 680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

OBITUARIES

SIR ISAIAH BERLIN



Sir Isaiah Berlin, OM, CBE, FBA, philosopher and first President of Wolfson College, Oxford, died yesterday aged 88. He was born in Riga, Latvia, on June 6, 1909.

Sir Isaiah Berlin was for many years one of the most influential figures in the intellectual life of the country, and also one of the most original. The part he played in the social and intellectual worlds of London and Oxford is very difficult to describe, because it was unique. It owed very little to any achieved position and status, but was due rather to the richness of his mind, his brilliance in conversation, his personal charm, and to the generosity with which he put his famous abilities at the disposal of others, without stint or calculation. He had a very unusual number of close friends, as much outside as within the academic world, all of whom felt entirely at ease with him, and who sought his advice, and loved to talk to him. Also, it was characteristic that he had met, in a totally unplanned way, and as it were by chance, Freud, Einstein, Picasso, Stravinsky, and most of the outstanding writers, musicians, and thinkers of his time.

He was an exceptionally warm and responsive person, certainly not formidable, in spite of the famous speed and allusiveness of his conversation. It was always evident that he responded immediately to the individual character of the people that he met and that he was genuinely interested in them. He was a benevolent mimic of personal styles. He was at all stages of his life consulted by many men and women on all kinds of professional and personal problems; and he was outstandingly shrewd and conscientious in trying to fit square pegs into square holes. Not only was he one of the best, and best known, lecturers on both sides of the Atlantic, but he was also one of the most successful teachers of graduate students. Wherever insight into the differences between individuals was required, Berlin showed a restless power to penetrate beneath the surface, whether among the distinguished dead or among the living, distinguished and undistinguished alike.

Isaiah Berlin was born in Riga, the only child of Mendel and Marie Berlin. His parents were Russian, and his father was a businessman who moved to London shortly after the revolution. In later life Berlin could still recall scenes from the Russian Revolution, which he had witnessed as a child. In London he had to learn English as his second language at the age of ten. From St Paul's School he went in 1928, with a scholarship, to Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He obtained first class honours in Greats (Lit Hum) and in Modern Greats (PPE).

Even as an undergraduate it was remarked of him that his rooms in college were "always a place of resort". He was elected to a fellowship by examination at All Souls College in 1932, and he remained closely connected with All Souls in different capacities for the rest of his life, with only a short interval before and immediately after the war. In 1938 he succeeded R. H. S. Crossman as a fellow and tutor in philosophy at New College, then under the wardenship of H. A. L. Fisher (who was one of the first to recognise how outstanding his gifts were). In addition to regular tutoring and lecturing on philosophy, he began the study of Karl Marx and of Marxism which was to issue in 1939 in his authoritative and original book *Karl Marx: His Life and Environment*, which was first published in the Home University Library but went through a number of editions (the most recent in 1978). He had a wide and deep knowledge of the history of European socialism and of the origins and continuing developments of Russian communism.

His own philosophical position was formed as a critical response to the new analytical philosophy which came to Oxford in the immediate prewar and postwar years, having as its forebears the logical positivism of the Vienna Circle and Wittgenstein's lectures in Cambridge. Berlin acknowledged and enjoyed the intellectual excitement which the new philosophy brought to Oxford, but he was not convinced by the more drastic anti-metaphysical polemics of the logical positivists, nor by the claim that all the problems of philosophy are problems arising from linguistic confusion.

It was a characteristic tribute to him that a group of the younger analytical philosophers chose his rooms in which to meet regularly for discussions from 1936 until the outbreak of war, and that the two dominant philosophers in the group, J. L. Austin and A. J. Ayer, were both his friends, though certainly not friends of one another. Berlin's criticism of the more sweeping claims of logical positivism were published in three powerful and original articles in philosophical journals, and reprinted in his *Concepts and Categories* (1978).

In the second year of the war, Berlin's life underwent an abrupt change, which was ultimately to lead him away from Oxford philosophy. He was, first, appointed to the Ministry of Information in New York, and then, in 1942, joined the British Embassy in Washington as a first secretary under Lord Halifax, a fellow of All Souls who had a strong personal regard for him and a high opinion of his judgment. Berlin quickly became a widely known and greatly respected figure in the political society of Washington, his admirers ranging from Felix Frankfurter and Walter Lippmann to Katharine Graham and Joseph Alsop. His delight in observing personal idiosyncrasies and incompatibilities made him an excellent political observer in a country where personality counts much more than party.

His reports to the Foreign Office on the political scene in the United States became famous in Whitehall for their colourful and amusing descriptions of personalities and of their motives, which made them vastly more readable than official dispatches are supposed to be. They strongly appealed to Churchill, who insisted on seeing them unabridged and on meeting their author. There was a mistake, and the guest invited to lunch in Downing Street, and surprised to find himself placed next to a disgruntled Prime Minister, was the songwriter Irving Berlin.

For the rest of his life, Isaiah Berlin remained a familiar figure in Washington, in New York and at Harvard, returning often to lecture, and in later life to visit his many friends. He was appointed CBE in 1946 for his work at the embassy, and was elected to honorary fellowships by at least ten American universities, a testimony to his unique reputation in the academic community there.

From the early Thirties onwards, Zionism and, later, Israel were never far from his thoughts. He returned repeatedly to Israel as a visitor. He had a thorough knowledge of Jewish history and of Jewish institutions and personalities. He enjoyed the friendship and confidence of Chaim Weizmann and wrote a brilliant essay about him, as well as one about Moses Moses, an early Zionist, and another about Lewis Namier and his ties to Zionism. English friends who visited Israel with him found that he had a peculiar and quasi-official standing there, as the most respected of all free-thinking Jews of the Diaspora, and that, as earlier at Oxford, his hotel room in Jerusalem immediately became "a place of resort". He strongly disapproved of the aggressive nationalism of recent Likud governments and of the religious parties, and he supported the Peace Now movement in Israel which opposes territorial expansion.

Berlin was a 19th-century liberal in politics in the mould of John Stuart Mill, but he drew some of his inspiration from Russian sources, specifically from Belinksy and Herzen, about whom he wrote brilliant essays, published in *Russian Thinkers* (1978). He abhorred the Leninism of some fellow-travelling intellectuals in the West. In all his publications and lectures he defended the value which was for him overriding: the value of individuality and human diversity, and of any relaxed political and social conditions which allowed it to flourish. He was suspicious of all general schemes of human improvement that do not take account of the peculiarities of local history and of local social conditions, because he believed that they must lead to enforced conformity and therefore to tyranny. He wished eccentricities to be protected, when they were both authentic and harmless, and unforced national differences to be respected.

During a wartime conversation in a transatlantic aeroplane with the distinguished American logician Scheffer, Berlin came to realise that his real interest was in the history of political thought rather than in philosophical analysis in a narrow sense. Even before he was appointed Professor of Social and Political Theory at Oxford in 1957, he had developed a style of lecturing on political thought which attracted very large and enthusiastic audiences of undergraduates, and his talks on the history of thought broadcast by the BBC Third Programme brought an unparalleled response from listeners.

It was his distinctive achievement when lecturing to be extremely serious and extremely amusing at the same time. Reconstructing social theories of the past, he related them to the temperament of thinkers and to the details of their inheritance and upbringing. The sceptical attitude behind his lectures, published and unpublished, was close to that of David Hume, but he was less abstract than Hume in his criticism, because he was a master of the telling detail and the odd quirk in a person's history which reveals his true nature.

When he gave the Mellon Lectures in Washington on German Romanticism, a very large audience, much of it far from academic, remained to the end, undaunted by a torrent of unknown German names flashing past in Berlin's headlong manner. It is reported that when he gave a course of lectures at Columbia University in New York a phenomenon was observed that has not been seen there before or since: the audience at the end of the course was considerably larger than at the beginning.

In 1966-67, his life took a new direction for the second time when he became the first president of Wolfson College, Oxford, and resigned his professorship. He said at the time that he took this step into administration, away from his natural inclinations, as a kind of thank-offering to Britain. He was very much more than the first president of the new college: he was in effect its founder, like an archbishop of the Middle Ages, having found and put together the very large sum of money necessary for an endowment. The university had proposed a college without an endowment and without the power to select its own fellows. Having successfully approached the Ford Foundation and the Wolfson Foundation, Berlin negotiated with the university, step by step, to establish a real and self-governing college for graduate students, with a splendid modern building on the Cherwell. Given the rigidities of university planning, this was an extraordinary triumph of skill and energy, and the college — which makes uniquely generous provision for families and indulges in no college pomposities — is much loved and greatly aspired to by home and overseas students alike. Its customs, and particularly its common room arrangements, reflect something of the humanity, freedom from prejudice and openness to the world of its first president.

In 1974 Berlin became president of the British Academy, and in 1975 he resigned as president of Wolfson. But he continued to supervise and to advise graduate students interested in political thought or in Russian studies. "The place of resort" continued as always, and a stream of foreign scholars came to talk to him. His fame extended across Europe, and he received the Erasmus Prize in 1983 and the Agnelli International Prize for Ethics in 1987.

He was for many years a director of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and he was also a trustee of the National Gallery. His scattered articles and printed lectures continued to appear in a collected edition edited by Henry Hardy, which included also a magnificent set of memorial addresses in praise of friends — Maurice Bowra, Hubert Henderson, Chaim Weizmann, Richard Pares, Lewis Namier, Edmund Wilson among others. Perhaps the most romantic and moving of all his essays on persons is his account of his two visits (1945 and 1957) to the Soviet Union; the essay has the title *Two Russian Poets*, and concerns Boris Pasternak and Anna Akhmatova, with both of whom he established strong personal ties. Akhmatova addressed some of her later poems to him.

Outstanding among his publications are *The Hedgehog and the Fox* (1953); *Historical Inevitability* (1954), an essay on Tolstoy; *Two Concepts of Liberty* (1959), his inaugural lecture as professor at Oxford, which introduced a very influential distinction between positive and negative conceptions of freedom; *Russian Thinkers* (1978), on 19th-century thought and the intelligentsia, and *Against the Current* (1979), essays on Machiavelli, Vico, and on various critics of scientific optimism and the Enlightenment. There is a unity of point of view in all these essays — and, indeed, in subsequent works of collected pieces such as *The Study of Reality: Studies in Ideas and their History* (1996) and *The Proper Study of Mankind* (1997); the point of view is liberal and pluralistic in ethics throughout, but Berlin never shared Mill's belief in the possibility of some radical reform of society. He believed that human aspirations and ideals are incurably divergent and can not be made harmonious without violence and suffering.

Part of the charm of his writing, and part of its wide appeal, comes from the spontaneity of a speaking force. The tone is far from academic, being rather worldly and free, even free-wheeling. Berlin had no ambition to produce a great work, an impressive monument of prose. His nature required that his work should be scattered and various and not confined to a single discipline, and that it should be accidental, in the sense of being a response to some demand made upon him rather than planned on his own initiative. In respect of his public performances, he thought of himself as a taxi rather than as a hired car.

His hero was Alexander Herzen, to whose memoirs he wrote an introduction. Classical music of the classical age, together with Italian opera, were always at the centre of his life, and his bias towards Rossini and Verdi conveyed his sense of pleasure and his love of the uninhibited expression of feeling.

But, finally, it has to be said that his extraordinary hold upon the minds and affections of very different people in several generations probably owed more to the delight of his conversation and to the innate benevolence and humanity of his personality than to his books, which have only been fully appreciated at their true worth in his later years. There was never the slightest suggestion of pretence or of self-assertion, or of the desire to dominate which sometimes accompany great intellectual powers and a worldwide academic reputation.

He was genuinely surprised by his own apparent eminence and by the accolades he received and the admiration which he evoked in many different circles; as a young man he had not expected anything of the kind, and this surprise was always evident in his manner. He did not aspire to be learned in any one discipline, but he had a great range of accurate knowledge and this entered in fascinating detail into his conversation: knowledge of contemporary personalities in England, Europe and the United States, of Russian life and literature, of Jewish history, of the history of philosophy and the history of music, of the history of scholarship and political theory and of much of modern European history.

He had a wonderful memory, both capacious and exact, and, if asked, he might, for instance, recall the titles and plots of some fifty or more Jules Verne novels. His older friends used to complain that his immense range of knowledge was inexplicable, since he always seemed to be either talking or listening to music, and as a young man he was scarcely ever found just reading. Yet his memory for people, dead and alive, was prodigious in its long reach and in its detail. He was a constant source of gaiety and of lightness among friends, and he was always attracted to gaiety and to originality in others. It was readily seen that he was deeply serious and reflective, both in his moral and in his aesthetic concerns, but he was never solemn. He shared with David Hume that quality which caused Hume to be called in France *le bon David*: the power to spread the enjoyment of life around him.

Isaiah Berlin was knighted in 1957. His admission in 1971 to the Order of Merit, leading to his being its senior commoner member, was an appropriate recognition of his many-sided eminence, including public service alongside academic achievement.

In 1956 he married Aline (*née* de Gunzbourg), who survives him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOHN BIGG A Memorial Concert for John Bigg (died June 20th 1997) will be held at St John's Smith Square on Monday, 10th November at 7.30 pm. Tickets, which are complimentary and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, are available only on written application to The Centre for Young Musicians, Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HT. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Foundation for Young Musicians.

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THE TIMES

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Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to regulation 6(4) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 1994, the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents has ordered an Inspector's Inquiry into the accident involving the dredger SAND KITE which struck the Thames Tidal Barrier on 27 October 1997.
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THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

JOHN BLACKWELL

John Blackwell, publisher, died from a heart attack on November 5 aged 60. He was born on October 23, 1937.

JOHN BLACKWELL was one of the great publisher's editors, indeed almost the last of that glorious pre-corporate breed. At the end of the 1960s he joined Secker & Warburg, where Frederic Warburg and David Farrer were formidable presences, and Tom Rosenthal was about to become one. All were outstanding editors and impassioned supporters of their serious authors. Blackwell sustained — and more than sustained — the spirit that made this the house that so many authors wanted, or were proud, to belong to.

He worked with Angus Wilson, sometimes guiding the final shape and structure of his ever more complex and Dickensian texts. His stable of writers came to include André Brink, J. M. Coetzee, Saul Bellow (at times), Michael Moorcock, George V. Higgins, Tom McGuane, Tom Sharpe, Malcolm Bradbury, David Lodge, Louis de Bernières and Guy Bellamy.

He also promoted the remarkable list of modern European authors, from Thomas Mann to Günter Grass and Italo Calvino, which made Secker a key publisher of international and modernist writing. He was a wonderful editor of fiction and works of scholarship: an ideal editor for writers whose work embraced both fiction and academic research. In recent years he concentrated, finally as a freelance, on a list of his own selection.

For his authors it was a form of fearful pleasure to deliver a manuscript. The text was meticulously read and studied: the structure was analysed and considered, errors and infelicties were eradicated, foreign quotations were examined to destruction, and the scholarship was tested, often in the most arcane ways. Telephone calls exploring strange byways of the subject could come at any time of day or night. His letters were wonderful, indeed fully worthy of publication.

Sudden visits would occur, with Blackwell bringing out a once-pristine manuscript now extensively marked with yellow strips. Queries would arise of such complexity that days or weeks had to be assigned to explore points raised by his learning, scepticism, linguistic knowledge, exuberant curiosity and amazing memory. Because he was the most genial and convivial of editors this was done in a mood of appreciative delight.

Rumour said that authors whose manuscripts failed Blackwell standards would receive odd night-time visits: wads of critical queries deposited through the letter box before the bearer disappeared mysteriously into the London gloom.

John Blackwell was born in Coventry, went to the city's King Henry VIII Grammar School, and entered naval intelligence for his National Service in 1955. He learnt Russian on a Scottish pig-farm, trained as a spy in intelligence and acquired various arts of secrecy, arcane knowledge and self-disguise which never quite left him.

From then on, it becomes impossible to be precise about a man so suited to mystery. At a time of Cold War tension and the Gary Powers crisis, he audited Russian radio air-traffic: some say in a hut in Turkey, others in a submarine off Cyprus, others in the Baltic, probably all three.

He went to Jesus College, Cambridge, from 1958 to 1961, read English, and there met his wife Pamela, whom he married in 1966. After a spell as a hospital orderly, schoolteacher and kitchen porter, he edited the journal of the Iron and Steel Institute (which explains his intimate knowledge of Paxton and Bessemer Process with which he sometimes confronted authors). He was a deeply convivial man and an instinctive bohemian, yet one whose personal life remained obscure.

What is certain is that he treated writing and publishing with an intense seriousness foreign to the age of communications conglomerates, accountant management, open-plan offices and corporate bottom lines. The task was simple: the publication of good books, studied books, complicated books, thoughtful books, books that took a long time to write, digest and achieve proper recognition. For each he would spend days considering typefaces, testing layouts, writing perfect jacket copy, refining proofs.

When Secker & Warburg moved from Georgianised houses in Bloomsbury and Soho to Michelin House and the Vauxhall Bridge Road, his long hours, night-time stints, pub conferences and sceptic's view of clock-time grew more out of place, and increasingly he worked from home.

For him, publishing did not belong to suits, conference rooms and corporate networkers, but to authors and books; books were not generic objects or commodities, but the strange workings of mind their authors tracked. He was the kind of editor one wrote for, the first ideal reader whose judgment counted most. He was a carver of wood and, in later years, a great skier and lover of mountains.

He leaves his widow, Pamela, and a group of writers whose work would not be as it is without him.

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7 1997

NEWS

Interest rate rise hits shares

■ Interest rates rose for the fifth time since the general election to their highest level for five years, raising fears of higher mortgages early in the new year.

The Bank of England's decision to increase base rates by a quarter point to 7.25 per cent only days after the stock market suffered a severe collapse stunned the City and was immediately condemned by businesses and leading politicians .... Page 1

Saudi nurses documentary dropped

■ A BBC documentary alleging that the two British nurses tried for murder in Saudi Arabia were framed has been dropped after pressure from the Foreign Office and their families. Diplomats fear that it will jeopardise moves by the Saudi courts to cut the jail sentences .... Page 1

Bare-headed justice

The Lord Chancellor wants to sweep away the ancient trappings of his office by scrapping the traditional 17th-century costume of wig and tights and calling his ministry a Justice Department .... Page 1

US backs down

The United States backed away from a military strike against Iraq despite strong evidence that President Saddam Hussein was hiding sensitive weapon-making equipment .... Pages 1, 17

IRA split

The IRA's "quartermaster-general" who has control over huge stocks of arms has left the hierarchy in protest over the protracted peace negotiations .... Page 2

One that got away

The former editor of an angling newspaper was cleared of encouraging his readers to kill cormorants, a protected bird .... Page 3

Explosive toys

After children were found playing with live shells in Liverpool a police investigation led to a warehouse filled with 20 rusting Russian-built tanks .... Page 5

Sofa summit

Tony Blair intends to show the French that they lag behind Britain in the style stakes — so he has invited President Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin to a sofa summit .... Page 8

Animal testing ban

The immediate ban on testing cosmetic products on animals will result in only 250 fewer rabbits, guinea-pigs and rats being used each year .... Page 10

Diana inquiry

An excessive amount of time, energy and money is being spent on the investigation into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, French police have complained .. Page 11

Storms kill 31

At least 31 people drowned in Spain and Portugal as violent storms swept across the Iberian peninsula, causing widespread floods .... Page 15

Belgian BSE row

The Belgian Government was engulfed in embarrassment when it emerged that the country's first cow to succumb to BSE had mistakenly been turned into animal feed which was sold to the Dutch and the Poles .... Page 16

Yangtze Dam finished

The last massive rock will drop into place tomorrow on the controversial Three Gorges Dam on the mighty Yangtze River, blocking the main course .... Page 18

Drug mystery

When a fugitive Mexican drug trafficker died after plastic surgery and liposuction to alter his appearance, the circumstances of his demise sparked a national mystery .... Page 19

Yves Montand's body to be dug up

■ A paris court ordered that the body of Yves Montand, the French film actor who died six years ago, should be dug up for DNA testing to settle a long-running paternity dispute. For eight years Aurore Drossard, 22, has fought a legal battle to be recognised as the daughter of Montand, the Italian-born actor who was married to actress Simone Signoret .... Page 1

MICHAEL DALDER / Reuters

Bavarian farmers' wives on their way to pray to the patron saint of animals during the St Leonhard Day celebrations at Bad Toelz

BUSINESS

Life deal imminent: Life Assurance Holding Corporation, set up by Lord Rothschild and Sir Mark Weinberg two years ago, is believed to be in talks to acquire GAN Life .... Page 27

Bonus: Boots expects more than 11 million customers to make use of its Advantage loyalty cards by the end of next year, making it the most widely-held loyalty card in the UK .... Pages 27, 29

Really motoring: UK sales of Rolls-Royce limousines and Bentleys doubled last month just as executives at Vickers discussed plans to sell off the business .... Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 44.5 to 4,863.8. Sterling rose to 103.3, rising 1.63 cents to $1.6919 and 2.44 pfennigs to DM2.9116 .... Page 30

SPORT

Football: The FA Youth Cup, in which players such as Ryan Giggs and David Beckham, George Best and Paul Gascoigne first attracted national attention, is to be sponsored by *The Times* .... Page 52

Tennis: A fusillade of aces enabled Greg Rusedski to join Tim Henman in the last eight of the Stockholm Open. Rusedski beat Lionel Roux, of France, 6-4, 7-6 .... Page 52

Rugby union: Lloyds TSB was confirmed as the first backer of the five nations' championship in a wide-ranging sponsorship deal worth £12 million .... Page 49

Racing: Singspiel, winner of many international races, was forced out of the Breeders' Cup meeting after fracturing a cannon-bone and faces a battle to be saved .... Page 47

[illegible]

Housebound: "The hostility to Mr Smith's proposal is now so widespread that I feel I must spring to his defence" — Richard Morrison on Covent Garden .... Page 34

Electrifying: Peter Stothard finds powerful modern resonances in a fine production of Sophocles's *Electra* with Zoe Wanamaker, now transferred to London .... Page 35

Pop and more: Singer Finley Quaye on multicultural Britain; David Sinclair on new albums; and Caitlin Moran on the use of great songs in adverts .... Pages 36, 37

Right Pryce: He sang on stage as Fagin, played Juan Peron opposite Madonna on screen, is the latest Bond villain, and now Jonathan Pryce is a First World War psychiatrist .... Page 38

Fashion: Winter sees a shorter look with a schoolgirl twist .... Page 20

Heavy hitter: Lord Irvine of Lairg is one of the most powerful politicians in the Government. Yet he has chosen backstage .... Page 21

Change on 4: In his first interview since taking over, Michael Jackson reveals his plans .... Page 39

Auntie's new babies: Could extra services prove too much for the BBC .... Page 40

Island boss: Employees of Island Records could be forgiven for heaving a sigh of relief after the departure of Chris Blackwell .... Page 42

Broke: A desperate air hangs over the country's 446 further education colleges .... Page 44

Green fingers: Imperial College fizzed with enthusiasm as young naturalists, Professor David Bellamy in their midst, jostled for a word .... Page 44

The French exception has not stopped irritating Europe. Whether the cause is good or whether it is turning into a caricature as in the case of the lorry drivers, Helmut Kohl and Tony Blair cannot ignore the realities. Within the European Union, France remains "the authority in the middle" — *Le Figaro*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ METRO

Pop group Fun Lovin' Criminals prove that, despite appearances, they are not so *hard*

■ WEEKEND

Check out the Indian honeymoon hotel of William Hague and Ffion Jenkins

RADIO & TV

Preview: Doctor departs, another can take over. *Dangerfield* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Men still behaving funnily .... Pages 50, 51

Russia's day

Today is the Day of Accord and Reconciliation in Russia. Worldwide, the date will be more familiar as the 80th anniversary of the Russian Revolution .... Page 23

Ira irreconcilables

Reports of widespread republican unease and the resignation of two members from the 12-person provisional IRA army executive have inevitably provoked fears that the peace may not hold .... Page 23

On line

The Government is beginning to take a tougher line with the privatised rail companies. This is a sensible step .... Page 23

MATTHEW PARRIS

When you are the Opposition, troublesome questions that time may later settle can be brushed to one side; crunches can be postponed; there are no High Noons unless you stage them .... Page 22

JOHN LLOYD

Tony Blair was right when he advertised his Government-to-be as a radical one. It wants to change us fundamentally; not by killing but preserving the thing it says it loves — Britain .... Page 22

ROSEMARY RIGHTER

Isaiah Berlin was an elegant and private man who yet contrived without so intending to be a social lion of the intellectual world. Yet it is as moral philosopher that this most subtle and delightful master of his adopted English language will endure .... Page 22

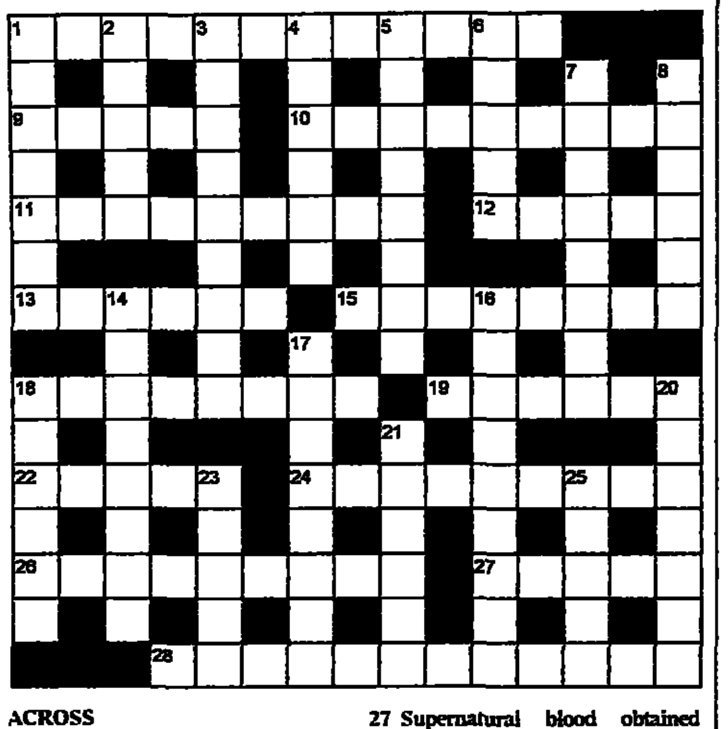
PETER RIDDELL

In his catechism of question and answer, Sir Gordon asked, "does this draw a line under the sleaze allegations?" and replied "I sincerely hope so". I would not bet on it. We have not heard the last of Neil Hamilton .... Page 13

Sir Isaiah Berlin, philosopher; **John Blackwell**, publisher Page 25

Tobacco sponsorship; EMU; Pope's apology over Jews; red grouse and raptors; methane emissions; Oxbridge fees .... Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,631



ACROSS

1 Cast doubt upon gospel? (8,4).
9 Jargon internally used, by thieves primarily (5).
10 Provide information in French repeatedly about match (9).
11 Bounder crazy about port (9).
12 Knock back drink like a king (5).
13 Labour leader, to some very right (6).
15 Resolute volunteers left fighting in the street (8).
18 Journey by road in old form of transport (8).
19 Peers seen as being a little left in some quarters (6).
22 Like some fruit? Bananas (5).
24 Differing over a tape, disappear (9).
26 Curses businessman who's contracted charges (9).
27 Supernatural blood obtained from magic horse (5).
28 When one starts to repent and washes dye out (3,9).

DOWN

1 Fall out from missile (7).
2 Boat corroded, by the sound of it (5).
3 Child — he has to finish cloth off completely (2,3,4).
4 Exaggerate upset of vicar called in by French bishop (6).
5 One similar to husky chap, unable to speak (8).
6 Mr. Ackroyd murdered? I agree (5).
7 Magistrate is confused re these marks on the skin (8).
8 It restricts movement around low joint (6).
14 Marmot depicted by painter (8).
16 Sweet drink on the rocks (9).
17 Current down — true? False! (5).
18 Gypsy's fiddle (6).
20 Modest, covering up always line in see-through fashion (7).
21 Collected a ship in the Mediterranean (6).
23 Dismisses county side quickly (5).
25 What a doctor may get to contain one garden pest (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,630

```
PANACHE SUSTAIN
A O I N T A P O
RAVEN STANDSPAT
A I C C C D A I
PITCHFORK LILAC
E I N E E
TEASE CLIPBOARD
T L S A B
PREBENDAL GLOSS
O C A M E
COMET PUNISHING
H O R O D T N M
ANCHORITE IMAGE
R K D N R L T N
DISSENT SALIENT
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Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.05 am	4.23 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
11.52 pm	12.59 pm

First quarter today

London 4.23 pm to 7.06 am
Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.16 am
Edinburgh 4.13 pm to 7.34 am
Manchester 4.25 pm to 7.21 am
Penzance 4.49 pm to 7.24 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** showers will die away in England and Wales, apart from one or two lingering in the North West. Spells of sunshine will break through before cloud spreads again, bringing rain to the South West. Most other areas turning wet tonight. Scotland will see sunny breaks, but rain will spread to many areas this evening.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** early showers but sunny spells developing. Cloudier again later. Moderate SW wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Cent S England, E Midlands, E England, Central N England, NE England:** any remaining overnight showers will die out to leave sunny spells, but cloud increasing in afternoon. Moderate SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, IoM:** brief sunny spells, but showery in afternoon. Moderate SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** thickening cloud with rain by evening. Freshening SE wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** sunny spells but becoming cloudy with rain later. Moderate SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** showers and brief sunny spells. Heavier rain by evening. Moderate SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** showery, a few bright spells. Moderate SE wind. Max 11C (52F).

Republic of Ireland: dry at first with sunny periods. Cloud and rain into South West towards midday then spreading northeast.

Outlook: heavy rain but sunshine later. More rain in South on Sunday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

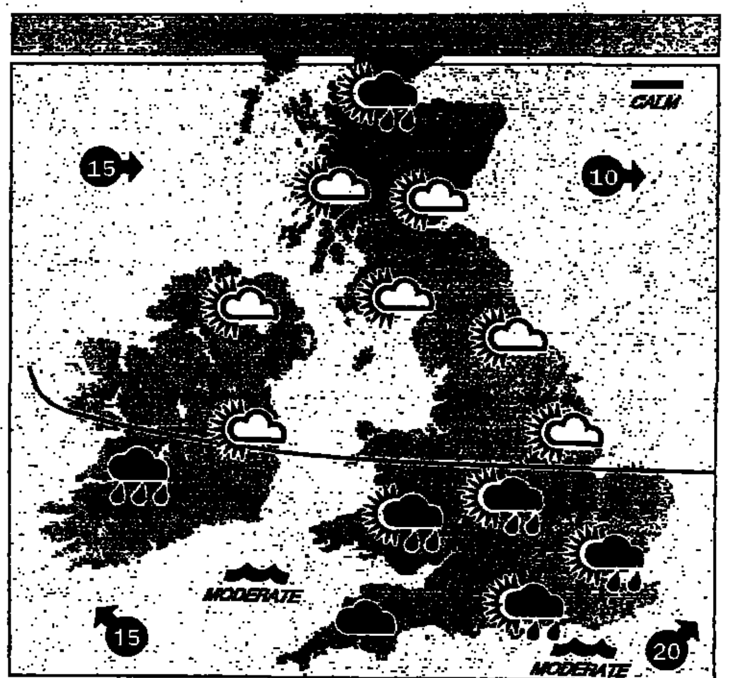
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.04	10	50	du	Lerwick	-	0.22	10	50	sh
Anglesey	0.2	0.05	12	54	sh	Leuchars	X				
Aspatria	1.1	0.01	12	54	c	Littlehmptn	-	0.23	14	57	c
Aviemore	-	0.48	8	46	r	London	-	0.26	15	59	sh
Belfast	5.0	0.02	12	54	s	Lowestoft	0.5	0.38	13	55	c
Bognor R	-	0.27	14	57	c	Manchester	0.1	0.05	12	54	sh
Bournem'th	3.1	0.42	15	59	b	Margate	-	0.28	13	55	r
Bristol	0.3	0.01	14	57	c	Minehead	2.7	0.01	14	57	b
Buxton	0.4	0.01	10	50	du	Morecambe	-	0.03	11	52	r
Cardiff	-	0.02	13	55	c	Newcastle	2.5	0.01	13	55	s
Clacton	1.1	0.28	12	54	du	Norwich	0.6	0.30	13	55	sh
Cromer	-	0.30	13	55	sh	Oxford	0.3	0.02	13	55	c
Eastbourne	-	0.35	14	57	r	Penzance	X	0.18	14	57	sh
Edinburgh	0.2	0.32	11	52	r	Prestatyn	X	0.08	11	52	sh
Eskdalemuir	-	0.28	10	50	fg	Ross-o-wye	2.8	0.01	14	57	b
Exmouth	4.5	0.04	15	59	s	Salcombe	X				
Falmouth	0.6	0.03	13	55	c	Saunton Snd	2.0	0.02	15	59	s
Fishguard	0.6	0.15	12	54	r	Scarboro'	1.2	-	11	52	c
Folkestone	0.5	0.19	13	55	c	Shrewsbury	0.5	0.04	13	55	sh
Glasgow	0.1	0.14	11	52	c	Skegness	X				
Guernsey	0.8	0.10	X	X	c	Southend	0.3	0.20	13	55	sh
Hastings	0.1	0.23	13	55	sh	Southsea	0.5	0.50	15	59	du
Hayling I	X	0.30	14	57	sh	Stornoway	-	0.17	10	50	r
Herne Bay	0.3	0.23	14	57	b	Swanage	X				
Hunstanton	X	0.46	12	54	c	Teignmouth	1.0	0.08	15	59	sh
Isle-of-man	1.1	0.04	13	55	b	Tenby	-	0.15	13	55	sh
Isle-of-wight	0.1	0.15	14	57	c	Tiree	2.3	0.01	11	52	sh
Jersey	1.7	0.14	15	59	c	Torquay	0.3	0.09	14	57	c
Kinloss	-	0.40	9	48	r	Tynemouth	-	-	12	54	du
Leeds	X					Weymouth	1.5	0.20	15	59	b

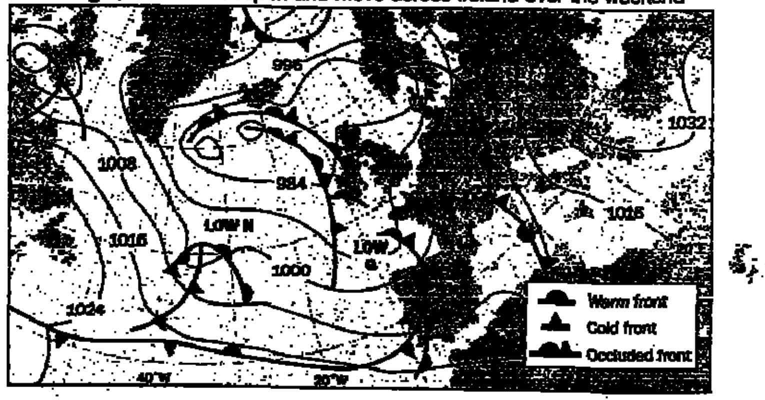
ABROAD

Ajaccio	22	72	f	Corfu	20	68	s	Madrid	12	54	r	Riyadh	27	81	f
Akrotiri	22	72	s	C'phagn	5	41	f	Majorca	22	72	f	Rome	X		
Alex'dria	23	73	c	Dublin	12	54	r	Malaga	21	70	c	S Fr'sco	15	59	f
Algiers	28	82	f	Faro	22	72	d	Malta	22	72	f	Salzburg	13	55	s
Amst'dm	13	55	f	Florence	X			Melb'rne	18	64	s	Santiago	19	66	f
Athens	16	61	s	Frankfurt	7	45	r	Mexico C	21	70	s	Seoul	15	59	s
B Aires	21	70	c	Funchal	24	75	c	Miami	24	75	r	Sing'por	30	86	c
Bahrain	30	86	f	Geneva	9	48	f	Montreal	9	48	s	St'kholm	X		
Bangkok	29	84	f	Gibraltar	20	68	r	Moscow	-6	21	s	Strasb'rg	9	48	r
Barbados	28	82	c	Helsinki	-2	28	c	Munich	10	50	s	Sydney	19	66	c
Barcelona	21	70	f	Hong K	X			N Delhi	X			Tangier	23	73	f
Beirut	21	70	f	Innsbrck	14	57	f	N York	13	55	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	r
Belgrade	14	57	s	Istanbul	13	55	s	Nairobi	21	70	f	Tenerife	28	82	f
Berlin	4	39	c	Jeddah	34	93	s	Naples	X			Tokyo	19	66	s
Bermuda	25	77	f	Jo'burg	27	81	f	Nice	13	55	r	Toronto	-1	30	sn
Biarritz	14	57	r	Karachi	X			Oslo	2	36	c	Tunis	23	73	f
Borde'x	17	63	f	L Angels	21	70	s	Paris	13	55	f	Valencia	19	66	f
Brussels	15	59	f	L Palmas	33	91	f	Peking	16	61	s	Vanc'ver	12	54	c
Budapest	7	45	f	Le Touqt	15	59	f	Perth	20	68	c	Vienna	7	45	s
Cairo	26	79	s	Lisbon	17	63	r	Prague	3	37	s	Warsaw	3	37	s
Cape Tn	21	70	f	Locarno	10	50	r	Reykjavik	2	36	f	Wash'ton	12	54	f
Chicago	7	45	f	Luxembg	10	50	c	Rhodes	21	70	s	Wel'ngton	14	57	X
Cologne	9	48	r	Luxor	28	82	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Zurich	10	50	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available



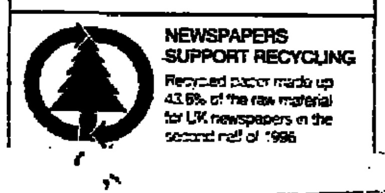
Changes to chart below from noon: low G will move NE close to S England overnight; low N will deepen and move across Ireland over the weekend



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	05.42	6.5	18.18	6.4	Leith	07.00	4.9	19.21	4.8
Aberdeen	05.45	3.7	18.00	3.7	Liverpool	03.06	8.1	15.38	8.2
Avonmouth	11.14	11.0	23.43	10.7	Lowestoft	01.17	2.4	14.11	2.2
Belfast	03.12	3.2	15.29	3.3	Margate	03.50	4.4	16.28	4.3
Cardiff	11.00	10.3	23.29	10.0	Milford Haven	10.25	5.9	22.57	5.6
Devonport	09.29	4.9	22.00	4.6	Newquay	09.22	5.9	21.55	5.7
Dover	02.48	6.0	15.18	5.8	Oban	09.57	3.3	22.12	3.1
Dublin (N Wall)	04.06	3.6	16.21	3.7	Penzance	08.50	4.8	21.21	4.5
Falmouth	09.00	4.7	21.31	4.4	Portland	10.48	1.7	23.33	1.5
Greenock	04.30	3.2	16.53	3.3	Portsmouth	03.28	4.3	15.48	4.2
Harwich	03.42	3.6	16.16	3.6	Shoreham	03.00	5.5	15.32	5.3
Holyhead	02.26	4.8	14.54	4.9	Southampton	02.44	4.2	15.08	4.1
Hull (Albert D)	10.32	7.6	22.48	7.5	Swansea	10.30	8.1	23.06	7.8
Ilfracombe	10.09	7.7	22.40	7.4	Tees	08.09	4.8	20.28	4.6
King's Lynn	10.35	5.5	22.54	5.6	Walton-on-N	03.35	3.8	16.14	3.8

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Middle Wallop, Hampshire, 0.67in; highest sunshine: Belfast 5.0hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996



Total number of lives saved so far this year:	1,023
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	4,237
Cost to RNLI per day:	£193,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210

Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Reg. Charity No. 209603

LEST WE FORGET

In memory of those who gave their lives

Pages 2, 20 and 24

SHOPPING

Cat walk style at high street prices

Page 5

HOME LIFE

Girls who care for America's children

Page 6

TRAVEL

William and Ffion's honeymoon hideaway

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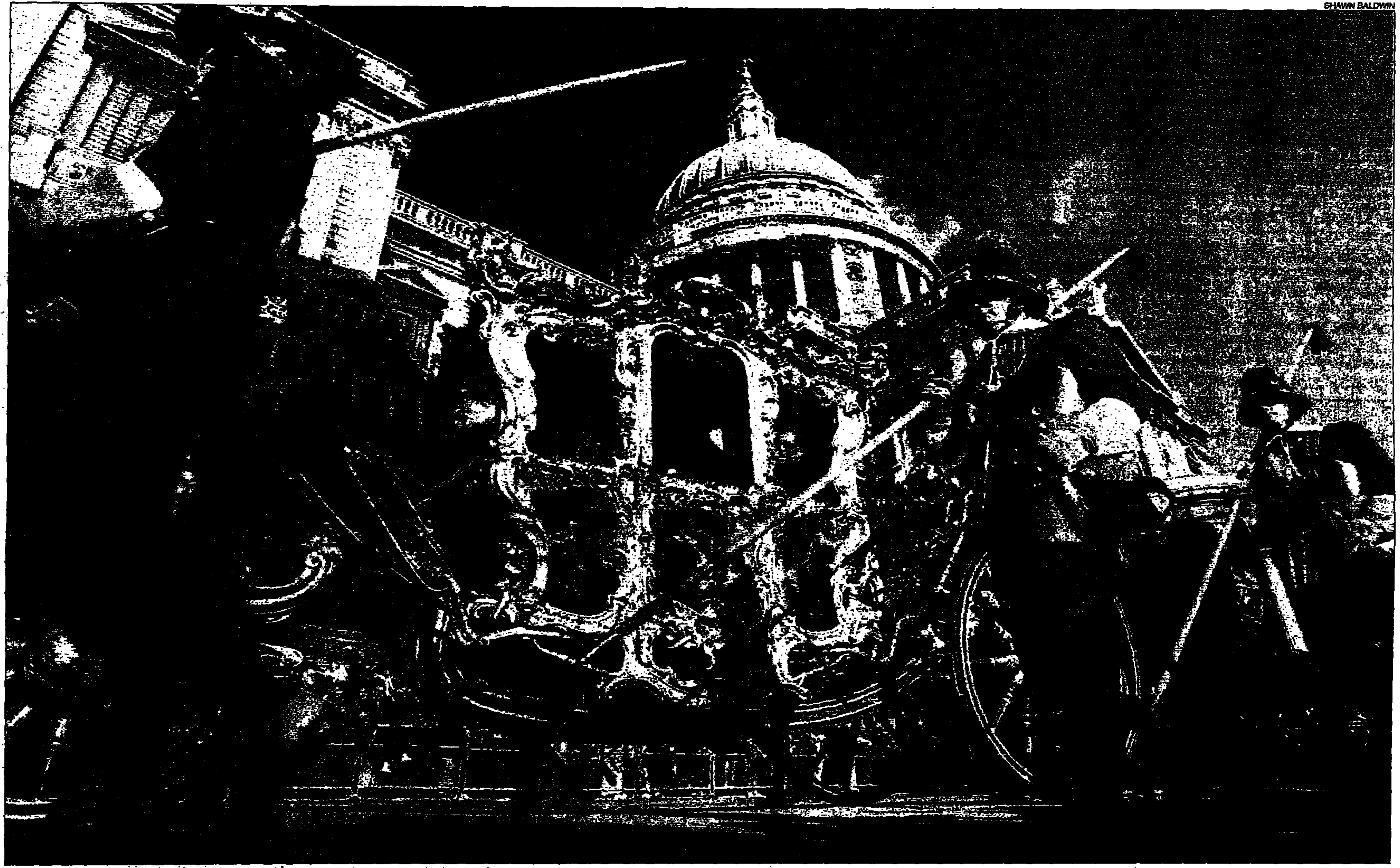
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8 1997

THE TIMES
WEEKEND

Lord Mayor, elected Mayor: London ain't big enough for both of them. **Mary Ann Sieghart** and **Valerie Elliott** report

SHAWN BALDWIN



The show goes on after 800 years: the glitteringly ornate 18th-century State Coach, escorted by a company of pikemen in medieval dress, bears last year's Lord Mayor through the streets of the City thronged with sightseers

Time to turn again

This is a tale of Old Britain versus New, of pomp versus circumstance, of the centuries-old rivalry between money and politics. The war was already raging in the year 1215. Just five weeks before King John was forced to sign Magna Carta, he sued for peace with the City of London, granting it a charter allowing it to hold annual elections on condition that the Lord Mayor swore fealty to the King. Nearly 800 years on, as this year's Lord Mayor sweeps through London to swear his oath, Tony Blair is still playing the power of Westminster off against the funds of the City.

It is the latest in what the historian David Kynaston has described as "Labour and the City: a tragi-comedy in innumerable acts". At stake has been the continuance of an institution that has adapted and survived for more than 800 years, financing impoverished monarchs' foreign escapades in return for being left alone to make money.

As the new Lord Mayor of London, Richard Nichols, a Watford solicitor, parades in his gold carriage alongside the Thames today he may reflect that his successors will owe their precarious existence to the financial and political clout that his City insiders have managed to wield.

The Corporation of London, of which the Lord Mayor is the figurehead, is the most bizarre local authority in the country. The 1.06 square mile has only 6,500 residents, but raises £670 million in taxes, £600 million of which has to be handed straight to the Treasury. It earns another £70 million a year in private income from investments and property.

The City is also the only authority which gives votes to business owners, and which still has senior councillors, known as aldermen, who hold continuous office until the age of 70, and can blackball others elected to their ranks. They pick the Lord Mayor: in the Middle Ages, they claimed to have been guided in their choice by the Holy Spirit. Even now, many of the City's wards are all but rotten boroughs, from which councillors are elected unopposed.

The Herbert Commission, set up by a Tory Government, reported in 1960 that the logical solution was to abolish it. But, the report went on: "Logic has its limits and the position of the City lies outside them." Labour, until very recently, stood firm on the side of logic.

Although the Corporation's councillors are not overtly party political, this is one of the most deeply conservative institutions in the country. Out of 670 Lord Mayors of London, there has been only one woman. Its wards — with names such as Farringdon Without — are unchanged from

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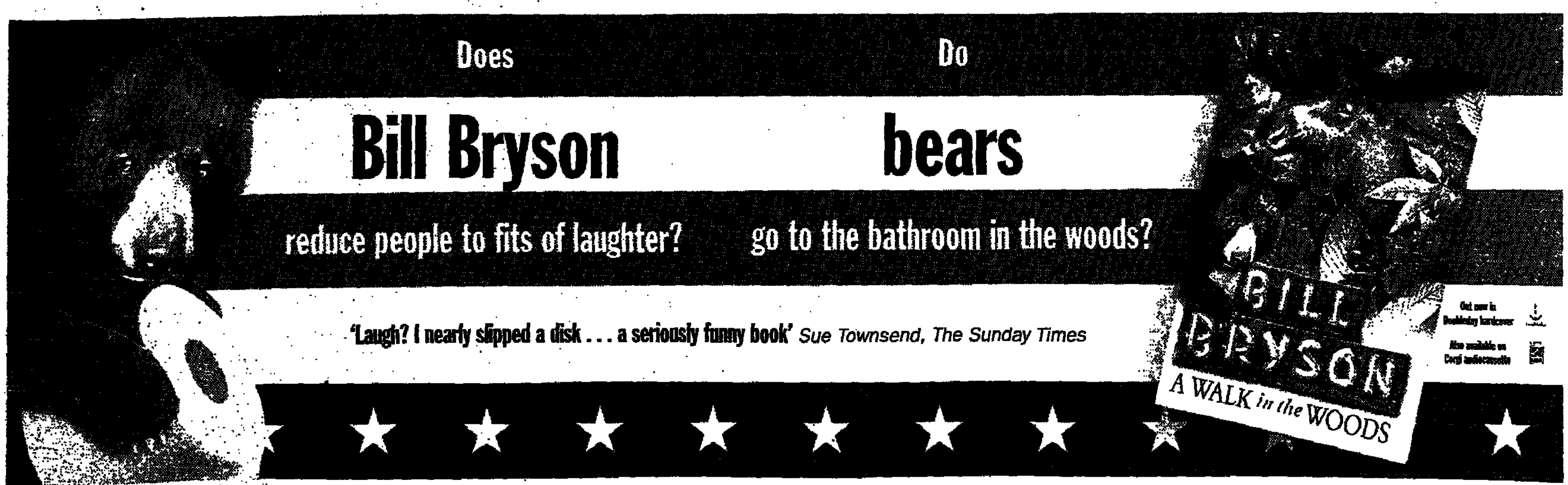

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هكذا من الاصل

We will remember them...

At long last we are starting to take proper care of our war memorials, says **John Young**

Tomorrow is Remembrance Sunday, when hundreds of thousands of people will gather at war memorials across the British Isles to honour those who died for their country's freedom. At the heart of the ceremonies are the memorials themselves, the great majority erected after the First World War in what has been described as the biggest public art project ever undertaken in Britain.

As our tragic century draws to its close, there is increasing concern that many of the memorials will not survive the ravages of decay, neglect, redevelopment and even vandalism. In a timely intervention, the National Heritage Memorial Fund has announced a grant of £156,000 today to fund the completion of a national inventory. This will be the first step towards their future conservation.

From 1914 onwards, as news arrived here from the Western Front, local communities displayed lists of the casualties outside churches and in other prominent sites, which were frequently decked with flowers. After the Armistice they were replaced by permanent memorials ranging from simple plaques to elaborate sculptured monuments, in almost every case paid for by public subscription. The memorials also included buildings such as hospitals, village halls and even humble bus shelters.

Government decisions that the dead of both world wars should be buried on the battlefields where they had fallen meant that many people were unable to visit the graves of their relatives. Even more importance was therefore attached to domestic shrines of remembrance, mostly constructed on an ad hoc basis, some on common land, others in church precincts or on sites donated by landowners.

Local authorities were empowered to maintain and repair them, but were not obliged to do so. In villages, where community ties were close, memorials were generally more revered and better cared for over the years than in large towns and cities with their constantly changing populations.

Whereas the upkeep of overseas cemeteries is the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, funded by its member governments, there is no equivalent body responsible for memorials at home. A further cause for concern has been the closure of redundant churches and the risk that plaques commemorating the dead may be inadvertently destroyed.

In 1989, concerned by the growing risks posed by the passage of time, the Imperial War Museum and the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England initiated a national research project to create an archive of books, documents and photographs backed by a computerised database storing information on all the estimated 54,000 war memorials in the British Isles. The fieldwork would be carried out by thousands of volunteers from schools, local conservation and historical societies or with military or family interests.

There is increasing concern that memorials will not survive neglect, decay and vandalism

Initial funding came from the Leverhulme Trust, the Rufford Foundation and the Manifold Trust, but so far the IWM has accumulated information on only about half the memorials, and of those fewer than 8,000 are on the database. The new grant will allow the staff and equipment to be trebled and, it is hoped, enable the project to be completed by the end of the century.

As Robert Dufton, head of the NHMF, points out, the grant could hardly go to a more suitable cause since the fund itself grew out of the National Land Fund, established in 1945 from the sale of surplus war material as a memorial to those who lost their lives.

Nick Hewitt, the project co-ordinator, says the inventory will serve several purposes, including historical research. Despite the fading memories of war, the museum is receiving more inquiries than ever. These come from historians, from people researching their family histories and from school teachers needing material which will help to explain the experiences of past generations — not just in the two world wars (which are now part of the national curriculum) but also in earlier and later conflicts: the Crimea, South Africa and the Falklands.

The main purpose, however, will be to facilitate the proper conservation of the memorials themselves. Physical work on site is outside the museum's remit, but Jane Carmichael, its assistant director, says that in most cases repairs and maintenance should not be complicated or expensive.

Given suitable guidelines, as contained in a leaflet issued by the museum, the work can be safely entrusted to local goodwill and responsibility, she believes. She dismisses the recent call by Winston Churchill, the wartime leader's grandson, for all memorials to be classed as listed buildings as using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

While war memorials commemorate dead combatants, there is a growing view that not enough attention has been paid to the women and civilians whose efforts were crucial to national survival.

Lord Rothschild, chairman of the NHMF, points out that the fund is not able to pay for new memorials, but he hopes the present programme will stimulate further initiatives.

War memorial in Huntingdon. The National Heritage Memorial Fund will help in future conservation projects

- *The booklet,* The Conservation of War Materials, *is published by the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ (0171-416 5000).*
- Sites of Memory, *an exhibition of photographs by Chris Harrison, is at the museum until January 4.*

Poignant Passchendaele, p25

Call for tribute to thousands killed on home front

Campaigners want a memorial to the 60,000 people who died in the Blitz

This week, as the nation prepared to commemorate its war dead, the Government was again made aware that there is still no official memorial to the 60,000 or more civilians who lost their lives in the Second World War, *John Young writes.*

The Prime Minister was reminded of the words of Sir Winston Churchill who, on November 5, 1940, told the House that 14,000 civilians had already been killed and 20,000 seriously injured in bombing raids, while at that stage military casualties were relatively negligible.

Churchill wanted to ridicule any idea that enemy attacks would be confined to military targets. For the people of Britain the 1939-45 war was a new experience. While for centuries its Army and Navy had fought battles across Europe and the world in the pursuit of Empire, trade and wealth, civilians had been spared the carnage.

Sporadic air raids in the First World War had ill-prepared them for the devastation of mass bombing by Hitler's Luftwaffe. Although London bore the brunt, other key cities such as Southampton, Plymouth, Liverpool and Coventry were blitzed. During the summer of 1940 there were also fears of an imminent seaborne invasion. For the first time since the Norman Conquest the island kingdom faced the prospect of a foreign army marching through its streets.

According to Winston G Ramsey, editor of *The Blitz Then and Now*, the first casualties in the London region were Jim Roberts, an auxiliary fireman, and a Mrs Jane Page on July 26, 1940. The last was Ivy Millichamp killed by a V2 rocket at Orpington, Kent, on March 27, 1945.

The V-bomb attacks were particularly demoralising as at that stage victory appeared to be in sight. The first V1 struck London exactly one week after D-Day, killing six people in Bethnal Green. The silent V2 rocket was an even more fearful weapon, so much so that the Government refused to admit its existence for fear of the effect on public morale.

But for more than 50 years after the war the civilians who died lacked an official tribute. In February 1995 a campaign was launched by the London *Evening Standard*, backed by, among others, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Lord Mayor, to establish a memorial to the 40,000 who died and the 80,000 injured in the capital during 1940 and 1941 and in the V1 and V2 attacks in the last two years of the war. It was supported by MPs, local politicians and armed services veterans.

It was suggested that a memorial park should be created on a site known as the Hermitage, just down river from Tower Bridge. But the owner, the London Docklands Development Corporation, was more concerned with the potential £10 million value of the land for building flats and offices. With the LDDC about to be wound up at the end of this year, a decision on a planning application by Berkeley Homes is likely to be left to Tower Hamlets council.

Marianne Fredericks of Civilians Remembered, an umbrella group opposing development, says that a memorial park would be "a piece of London for the people of London". She says the site is "unique". It lies at the entrance to the London docks, which were a target for German bombers. "Its dedication would be a small price to pay for the civilian sacrifices in the last war," she adds.

Other campaign supporters include the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres; the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume; and Oona King, Labour MP for Bethnal Green and Bow who recently tabled an early-day motion in the Commons on behalf of the campaign. "This is about more than profit margins," she says. "It is about decency, honour and respect. I'm hoping Berkeley Homes will recognise this and hand over the land at cost price."

The Queen and George VI in London's East End in 1941

Members of the Home Guard with the Messerschmitt at East Dean, Sussex, in 1940

Museum's happy landing

The only known surviving Messerschmitt from the Battle of Britain has been acquired by the Imperial War Museum. Almost three quarters of the cost of its purchase and restoration will be met by a grant of £245,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, announced today.

Jane Carmichael, the Museum's assistant director, described the aircraft as "our most important acquisition for many years".

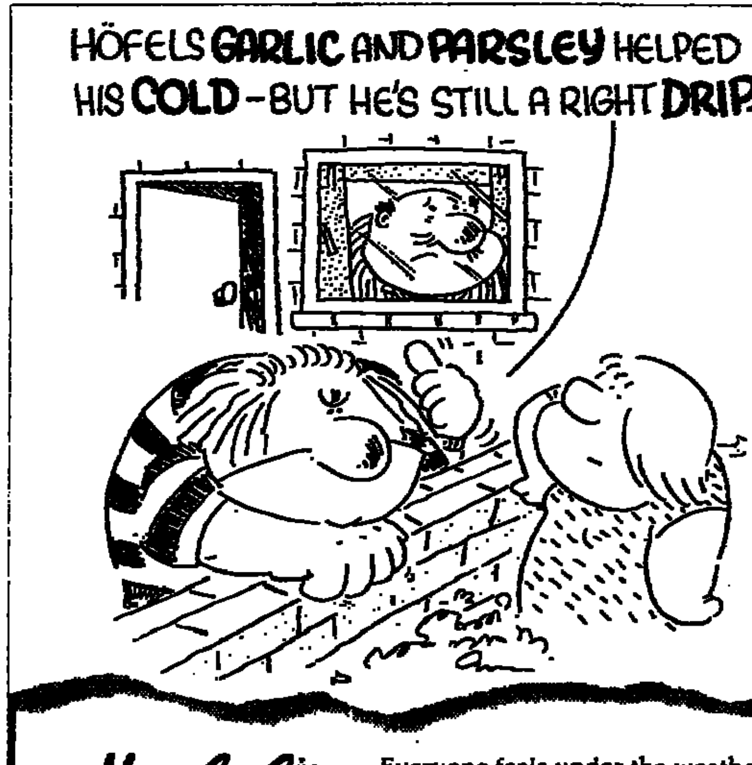
Messerschmitts were the mainstay of the Luftwaffe in the Second World War, but the pride of them all was the Me 109 single-seat fighter.

More than 700 took part in the crucial aerial battles of August and September 1940, inflicting heavy losses on Spitfires and Hurricanes.

The Museum's acquisition, serial number 1190, has an unusually well documented history. Built in Leipzig in 1939, it was flown in the Battle of Britain by the Jagdgeschwader 26 Squadron fighter wing based at Marquise-Ost near Boulogne. On September 30, 1940 it was attacked by Hurricanes over Beachy Head and belly-landed in a field at East Dean, Sussex.

A photograph shows the aircraft guarded by two soldiers from the Home Guard. The scene will be recreated when the Messerschmitt is incorporated in a Battle of Britain tableau at Duxford Airfield in Cambridgeshire.

JOHN YOUNG



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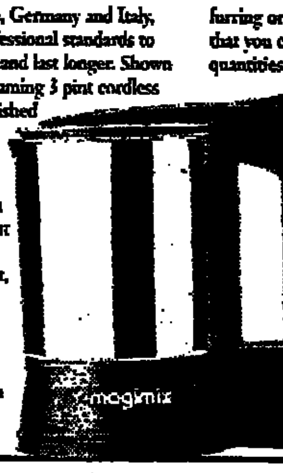

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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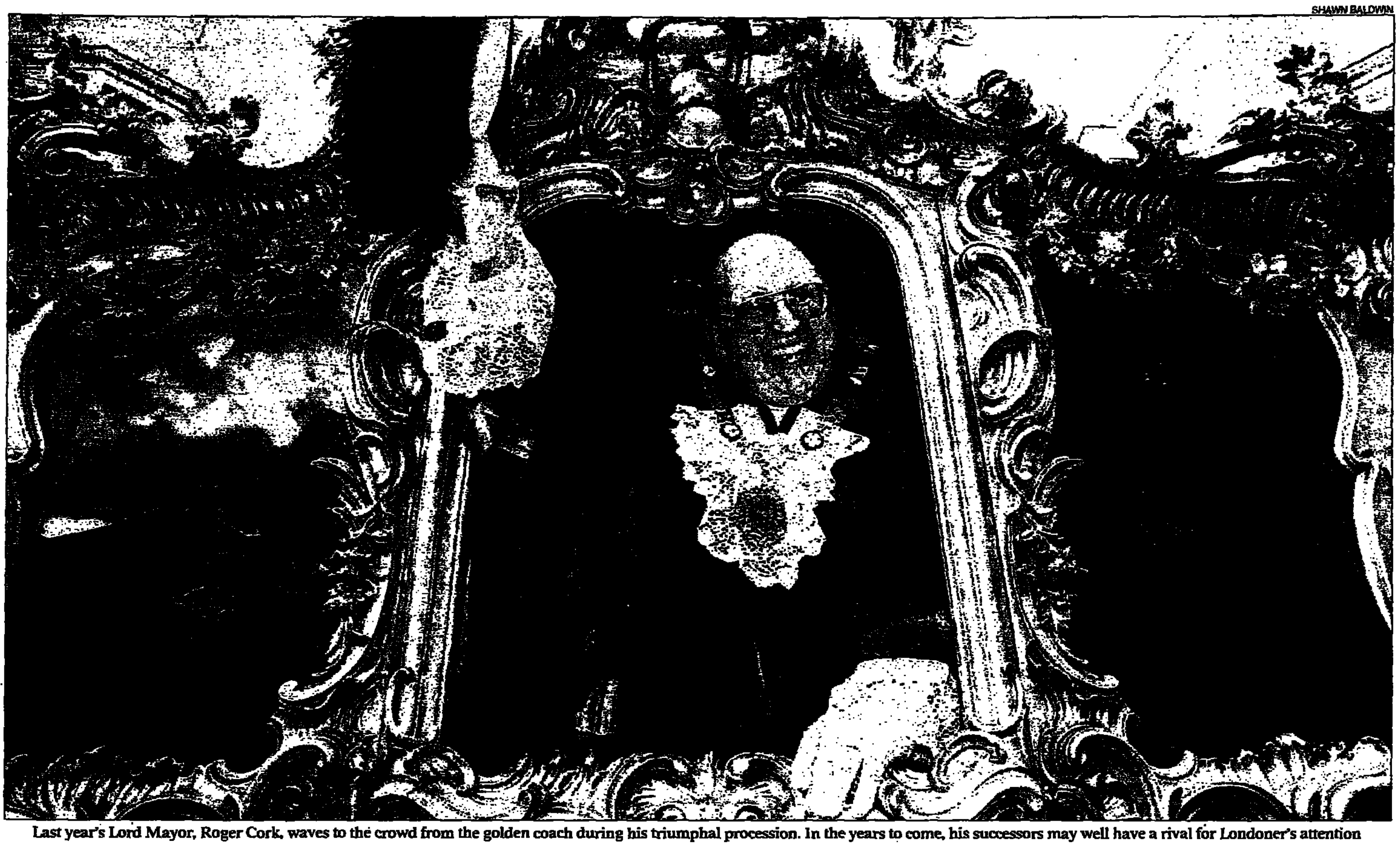


SHAWN BALDWIN

Last year's Lord Mayor, Roger Cork, waves to the crowd from the golden coach during his triumphal procession. In the years to come, his successors may well have a rival for Londoner's attention

Continued from page 1

the 12th century. Its ceremonies are medieval, with tricorn hats and town criers shouting "oyez". And its political structures have barely been reformed since the Black Death.

No surprise, then, that the institution should be anathema to Labour. Since 1918, the party had been pledged to abolish it, and only forebore from doing so because no Labour administration decided to make London government a priority in office. That, however, was sure to change once Margaret Thatcher abolished the Greater London Council and Labour committed itself to bringing in a replacement.

Until last year, the party's official policy was to rid London of this hugely wealthy and undemocratic anomaly. Yet in 1996, Mr Blair relented. Now, although the Corporation has managed, against the odds, to keep its hands on its money and its power, it faces another threat: an elected mayor and assembly of a new Greater London Authority.

Assuming that Londoners support these institutions in a referendum, the next Lord Mayor but one will face a powerful rival. Directly elected by about five million voters, the new Mayor of London will have serious political clout and extensive executive powers. But the old Lord Mayor will still have his hands on a coffer that will be the envy of his counterpart. The City and Westminster could be at daggers drawn again.

Lord Mayors of London have traditionally traded on the ambiguity of their title. To foreigners, and indeed to many Britons, the incumbent sounds as if he is in charge of the whole capital. When foreign dignitaries attend state banquets at the Guildhall, most probably assume that their host holds a position like the Mayor of New York. What will happen when the impostor has to give way to a real Mayor of London?

The new Lord Mayor, Mr Nichols, says somewhat sniffily: "Foreign VIPs enjoy full ceremonials. They don't want lunch in some 1960s hall — they want a banquet in the City. When we have an elected mayor he will be a welcome guest."

> 'The new Mayor may have the clout – but it's the Lord Mayor who will have the money'

Michael Cassidy, the former chairman of the policy and resources committee at the Corporation of London, reckons that there is room for the Lord Mayor and an elected Mayor to work side by side. But the Corporation will have to adjust. "If they decide to fight some silly battle about banquets and so on, there will be trouble," he says.

Reformers within the Corporation are already preparing for the turf wars. They expect their man to focus more sharply on the financial services sector and to use the City's wealth to entertain lavishly and make overseas promotional trips that the elected Mayor will not be able to afford.

But any politician likes to be associated with success. So, even if the Lord Mayor does not trespass on the elected Mayor's patch, he can expect his own to be trampled. The elected Mayor will want to bask in the City's glory — and may even have his or her eye on those huge reserves.

The City's money, like its customs, dates back to medieval times. Its Bridge House Trust Fund, for instance, generates about £15 million a year, on top of the Corporation's other income from the rents it used to earn from houses on London Bridge and the tolls it charged people to cross the river. In the Middle Ages, people used to leave money in their wills to "God and the Bridge", which went straight to Church and City coffers. More than half of the income is given to charity each year, making it the tenth largest charitable fund in the country.

Then, the Corporation makes four times that amount from its property: it owns 25 per cent of the Square Mile, as well as much of Mayfair around Conduit Street and Brook Street. This wealth allows it to trade largesse for political profit. Just as the City won favour with Henry V by financing his Battle of Agincourt, so today it has bought its political reprieve from Labour.

The man who spearheaded this campaign was Michael Cassidy, the leader in all but name of the Corporation between 1991 and the end of last year. Mr Cassidy, a City solicitor, realised that a deal would have to be struck with Labour if the authority was to survive. He embarked on a campaign of public relations, networking and genuine good works, sometimes in opposition to the crustier elements of the Corporation. The main aim was to portray the Corporation as altruistic, taking a greater interest in areas of London beyond its boundaries. Mr Cassidy set up partnerships with neighbouring boroughs, such as Islington, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Southwark and Lambeth. The leaders of these local authorities might have spat at the City in the "loony" 1980s. But by the turn of the 1990s, they were delighted to accept money for economic regeneration. And their enthusiasm for the new, enlightened City has percolated through to Downing Street.

The Corporation has also been happy to take control of London amenities outside the borough. For instance, it runs Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest, and maintains every traffic light in the capital. And it is willing to stump up cash in emergencies: the £6 million it has promised to the Millennium Dome, for example, may eventually seem a small price to pay for helping to ensure the Corporation's survival.

The deal struck with Government is that, in return for being left alone, the City authority will reform its archaic voting systems and play a big part in promoting inward investment to London and financing "schemes and studies for London as a whole". This ambiguous phrase in the recent Green Paper could refer simply to research; or it could be an invitation to put up money for the series of hugely expensive transport schemes in London which need to be privately financed. The days of the City bankrolling Westminster's ambitions may not yet be over.

It was Mr Cassidy who realised that, to justify its existence, the Corporation could not simply be a mouthpiece for commerce and finance: it needed to take part in the wider conversation about the capital. He helped to set up London First, an influential lobbying body on London matters and he became very active in London-wide planning matters and discussions about infrastructure.

This expertise, of course, makes him eminently qualified to change camps. Indeed, having secured the future for his City body, Mr Cassidy seems to have no illusions about where power will really reside in London by the turn of the millennium.

When Londoners open their ballot papers in the first mayoral election, Jeffrey Archer's name is expected to be followed by that of Michael Cassidy. Unlike those City aldermen, the voters will be guided in their choice by more than the Holy Spirit.

DUNCAN STEWART

Detail from a late 19th-century oil by William Logsdail celebrating a mayoral procession

NEW CITY MAYOR: THE POSSIBLES

Richard Branson

Jeffrey Archer

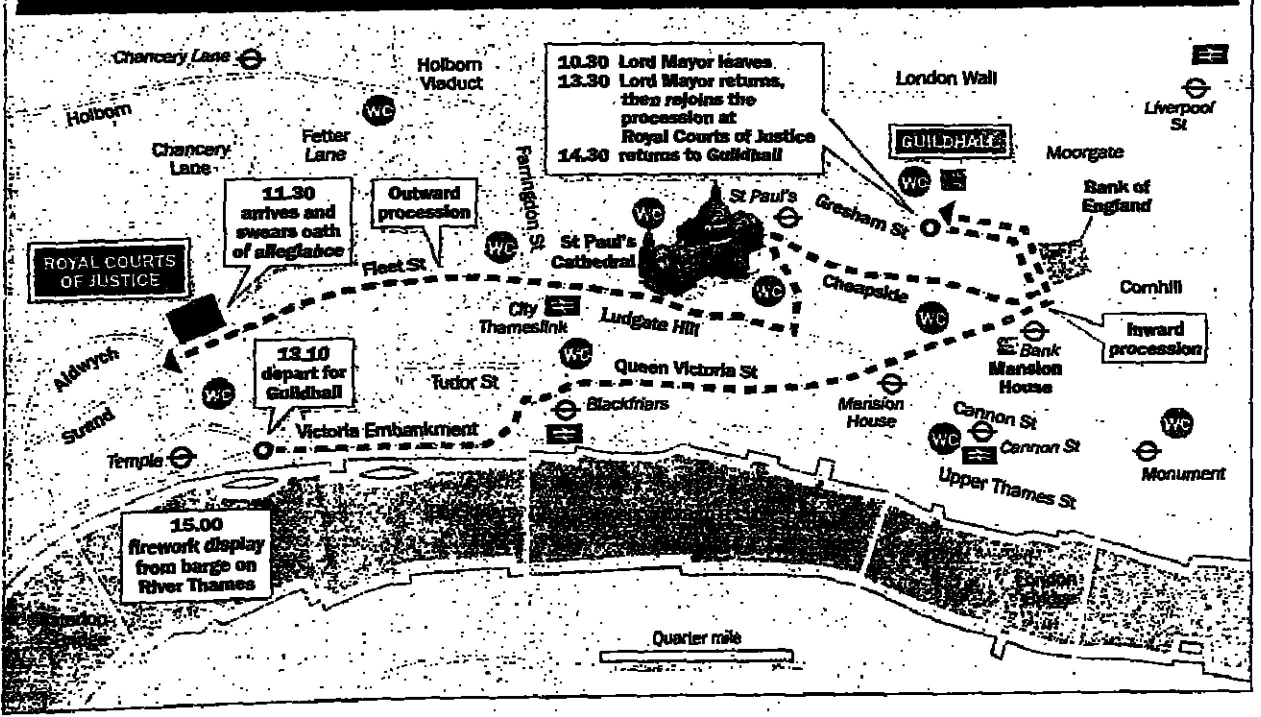
Michael Cassidy

Ken Livingstone

Margaret Hodge

Tony Banks

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW



HOW IT ALL STARTED

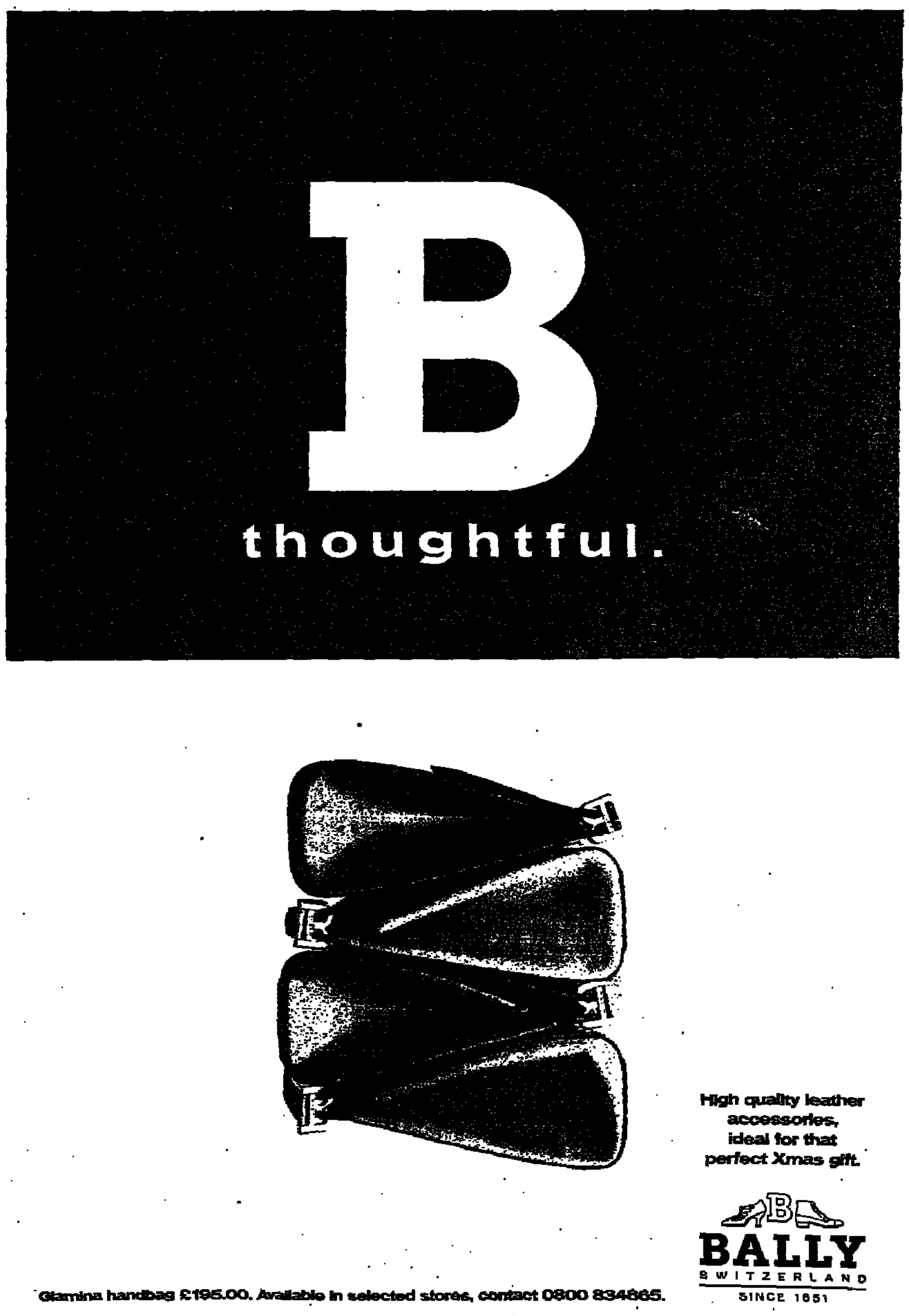
■ WHEN Richard Coeur de Lion was on his uppers in 1189 after the costly crusades, he needed money fast to pay a ransom: he was being held prisoner in Austria. So he allowed the citizens of the city of London to choose their own chief magistrate, to be styled Mayor, in return for funds.

Henry Fitz Ailwin was elected sometime between 1189 and 1192 and held the office until his death. In 1215, King John gave the corporation of citizens a charter to choose their own mayor annually, for a consideration. He stipulated that the mayor should take "his corporal oath for the due execution of his trust, in the Royal presence or otherwise in that of the King's Justices".

■ The Lord Mayor's Show evolved from the mayor-elect's procession to the Courts of Justice, then at Westminster, to take his oath.

■ The constitution of the Corporation of London, of which the Lord Mayor is head, is unlike that of any other local authority. It rests on ancient rights and priveleges which the citizens of London enjoyed before the Norman Conquest and which were subsequently recognised by charter. Within the City, the Lord Mayor has precedence immediately after the Sovereign, and outside the City, he ranks after earls.

■ The annual election of the Lord Mayor takes place in Guildhall on Michaelmas Day, September 29, by Common Hall — the name for the liverymen of the City Guilds and Companies assembled together.



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CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Nicola Horlick (centre). with 16-month-old daughter Antonia and Emma Harrison of Daisy & Tom. "I don't have time to shop around"

Superwoman's little secret

For high-flyer mother-of-five Nicola Horlick

a one-stop children's store is a real godsend

Nicola Horlick is modestly dismissive about the much-publicised Superwoman qualities that have enabled her to combine a stratospherically high-flying City career with a busy family life.

"People think I must be ultra-efficient but I'm not," insists the 37-year-old fund manager, devoted mother of five young children and now author of an autobiography sub-titled *Can You Have It All?* "What I'm good at is surrounding myself with people who are efficient. My nanny and my secretary, for example, are both outstandingly good. They tell me what to do, where to go, when and how. They point me in the right direction and I then just get on with it."

Apart from that, the key secret of her success — and her ability to command a seven-figure salary — is her decisiveness. "If you're going to be a good fund manager, you have to be able to make snap decisions," she says. "You just can't afford to dither."

She brings the same quality to her family shopping expeditions. "I don't have time to shop around," she says. "I make up my mind in seconds." For any busy parent in a hurry — especially one with five children between 16 months and 11 years — the opening last July of the one-stop children's store Daisy & Tom was a great blessing.

The two-storey shop was the idea of bookshop magnate Tim Waterstone, himself a father of eight, and it has departments for everything from clothes and toys to books and games. It is aimed exclusively at children under ten and includes a soda bar and restaurant, computer game play-stations, a fairground carousel, puppet show and story readings by children's authors. There is even a hairdressing section where a trim costs £10 and little madams can have a cut and blow-dry for £15. A second branch will open in Manchester later this month.

"I just love the idea of having everything under one roof," says Horlick, leading Jane Buckfield, the family nanny, and her youngest daughter Antonia, 16 months, on a brisk tour of the departments. With four of her five children's birthdays between October 19 and December 1 and then Christmas stockings to be filled, she is in and out of the shop all the time at the moment.

my favourite shop

"The kids were on to this place like a flash," she says as she arrives by taxi from her home in Kensington's Little Boltons. "They had heard about it within seconds of it opening and couldn't wait to come. The whole place is so bright and colourful and attractively laid out and they love the fact that there are always interesting things going on."

Making straight for the Hungry Hippus game that third daughter Serena wants for her seventh birthday, she moves on past the merry-go-round that runs twice a day at 11am and 4pm and through the arts, crafts and early learning department to the large book section.

"Not surprisingly, given Tim Waterstone's involvement, this is particularly good," she says, picking out three titles for Serena and recalling how her own father used to buy a book for her and her brother every Friday when they were children. "I used to do the same thing but with five children we ended up with so many books that we couldn't move." She delights in reading bedtime stories to her brood. "When they beg for one more chapter. I always give in."

Mrs Horlick, a law graduate, is married to Tim, an equally successful investment banker whom she met when they were students at Oxford. She hit the headlines when she very publicly fought her suspension as managing director of Morgan Grenfell's UK pension fund business, storming the company's Frankfurt headquarters to put her case.

Press interest escalated when it emerged that she had managed to reach the top of a demanding profession while at the same time raising five children, the eldest of whom, Georgina, 11, was diagnosed with leukaemia at the age of two and has been in and out of hospital ever since. During one critical period, Horlick famously took a short break from her daughter's bedside at Great Ormond Street and went back to the office to lead a successful presentation to Morgan Grenfell.

That kind of thing makes her sound tougher than she really is, she says. "When Georgie was diagnosed I fell to pieces, just like anybody else. But then, like a lot of parents at Great Ormond Street, I found the resilience of the children truly inspiring. You have to be positive and get on with things for their sake. You can't sit around crying."

Now with another high-powered job, setting up a London office for the French bank Société Générale, she adds: "After Georgie became ill, getting to the top of my profession was not my priority at all — it happened in spite of everything else. My focus for the past eight years has been Georgie and her illness and it goes without saying that I would happily give up all my money and success in return for her health."

MICHAEL CABLE

- *Daisy & Tom, 181-183 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352 5000). Open: Mon-Fri 10am-7pm. Sat 9.30am-6.30pm. Sun 12-6pm.*
- *All proceeds from* Nicola Horlick: Can You Have It All? *will go to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.*

Hot on the market

TOASTERS

We are a nation of toast devotees. According to the Flour Advisory Bureau, we consume more than 2.27 million loaves of toast a day, so an efficient and reliable toaster is an essential investment. On this, the last day of National Bread-making Week, it may be a good time to consider an upgrade.

Consider, for instance, the four-slice Dualit, a shapely, solidly industrial stainless steel machine, which toasts up to 135 slices an hour. For a family that never breakfasts together, a standard two-slicer is sufficient but a four-slicer provides piles of toast and prevents priority disputes.

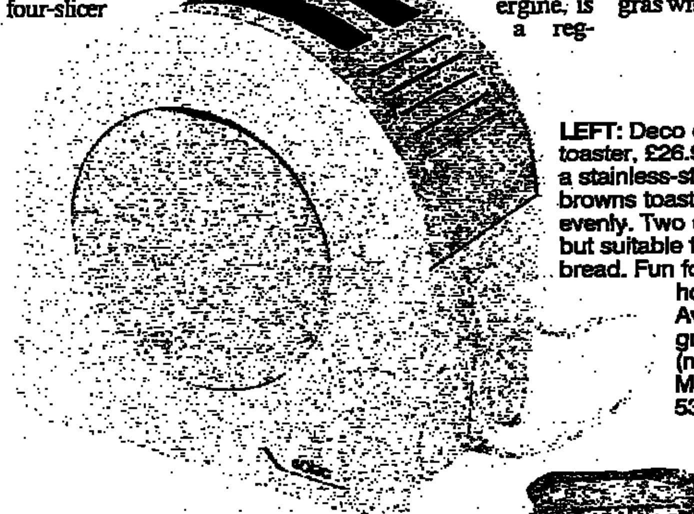
If space is tight, go for a narrow, long-slot design. This is also a wise buy if you like to vary your daily bread, because some of the more interesting varieties will not fit a standard-slot toaster.

"A slightly wacky new toaster is a simple and relatively inexpensive way to instantly update a kitchen," says Sally Nettleton, kitchen buyer at Heal's. Gordon Ramsay, the chef at the Michelin-starred Aubergine, is a regular at Vingt-Quatre, an all-night brasserie on London's Fulham Road, where he swears by baked beans on toast with grated cheese as the perfect antidote to a long, hard night in the kitchen.

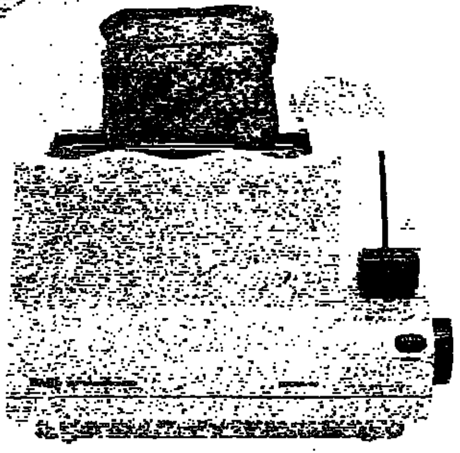
At home, he has a "wonderful great beast" of a toaster – a mammoth six-hole Dualit, because he also loves things-on-toast on days off.

Toast will make headlines of its own next month, when Pharmacy, a restaurant designed as an art installation by Damien Hirst, opens in Notting Hill: the ground-floor bar menu will feature toast in every form, from soldiers with boiled egg to foie gras with toasted brioche.

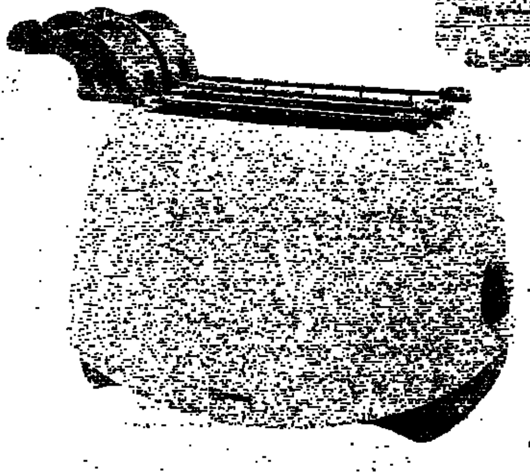
SUDI PIGOTT



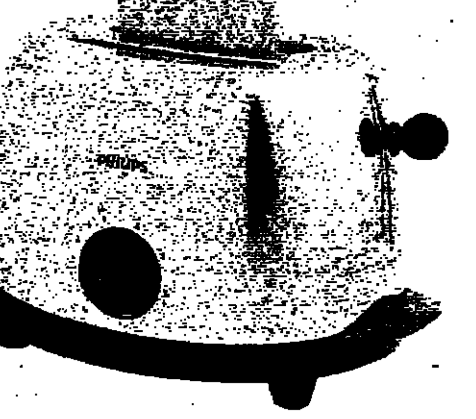
LEFT: Deco electronic toaster, £26.95. Spanish, with a stainless-steel effect, this browns toast speedily and evenly. Two defrost settings, but suitable for pre-sliced bread. Fun for student household. Available in blue, green or yellow (mail order from McCord, 0990 535455)



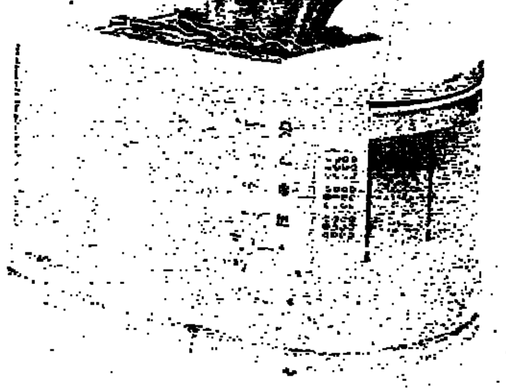
RIGHT: Wahl Happy Message Toaster, £34.95. This ingenious two-slice model comes with three patterning plates that imprint messages like "Eat Me" on one side of the slice and a sunshine pattern on the other. Children love it, though toasting takes a little longer and it takes only standard sliced bread. For stockist details call 01227 740066



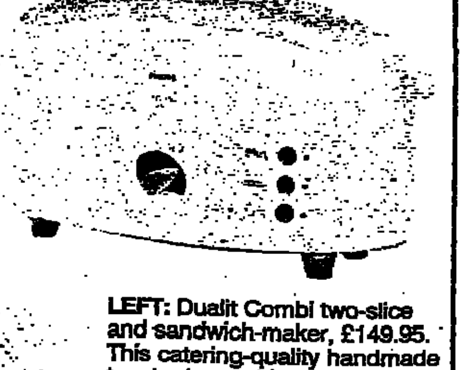
LEFT: Gildo Toaster by Guzzini, £65. Imaginatively designed Italian model takes mini-pizzas, bread and crumpets, but not suitable for bread straight from the freezer. Browns well, but makes an irritating noise as it toasts. Crumb tray has to be unscrewed with a coin to empty. Available in white, lemon yellow and pistachio green at Heal's in London and Guildford or mail order from Ocean (0800 132 985).



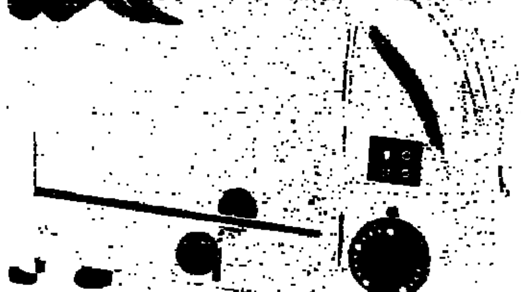
RIGHT: Philips HD4880, £49.95. Brand-new model whose design apes Dualit at a fraction of the price. Flimsy design means toaster tips up when bread carriage is pressed, and narrow slots limit types of bread that can be used. Comes with its own polishing cloth. Call 0181-689 2166 for nearest stockist.



LEFT: Kenwood TT350 Hi-Rise Toaster, £28.95. Able to tackle the thinnest slice or the hunkiest doorstep, as well as crumpets and pitta bread. Has self-adjusting grips and clever warming rack for croissants, rolls and baguettes. Despite electronic sensor, this browns rather fiercely even on low setting. Mail order from Lakeland Ltd, 015394 88100



RIGHT: Philips Sunrise XL Longslot Toaster, £49.95. State-of-the-art ivory coolwall model with translucent amber features, it has an extra-deep single-slot toaster chamber, seven browning positions, a lever to retrieve small items, one-side toasting facility, frozen bread button and more. Takes up a fair bit of space, but the ultimate in designer toasters. For nearest stockist call 0181-689 2166



LEFT: Dualit Combi two-slice and sandwich-maker, £149.95. This catering-quality handmade toaster has achieved cult status as the timeless stylish accessory for the modern kitchen. However, its bulky stainless-steel body gets extremely hot on the outside, it makes a buzzing noise as it toasts, and it all seems unnecessarily complicated to operate. Call 0171-639 5271 for stockists.

Photographs by DES JENSON

BARGAINS

There are bargains to be had all over the country. With £100, what would you buy?

FEW STREETS have escaped the invasion of the super-smooth "antique" dealer who strips the dusty charm from an old-fashioned junk shop and fills it with bright yellow pine. But Lillie Road in Fulham, west London, is one that has kept its charm. There are more than 25 shops here and their stock seems to change weekly. The owner of Decorative Antiques spends months each year in France and Spain, picking up garden furniture, armoires and chairs. Baroque and Roll is stuffed with ornate furniture and theatrical oddities.

When you get to know the owners, wine starts to flow — one good reason, I suspect, why not all of my purchases have been *true* bargains.

With my £100 I bought:
Watering can, £5; wooden church chair, £20; wooden toy box, £45; 1940s soda siphon, £10; tapestry cushion cover, £12; cappuccino and croissant, £2. Total: £94

LISA GRAINGER

- *Shops on Lillie Road, London SW6, are open from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday (inquiries and a local map on 0171-381 2500)*

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GADGETS

WHEN James Dyson invented the Dyson vacuum cleaner, he can hardly have thought that it would become a subject for dinner-party debate.

His latest model is the Recyclone, which as well as cleaning your carpets is part of the firm's commitment to avoiding "unnecessary landfill". In the future, the Recyclone will be made entirely from recycled Dysons.

many vacuums you only know that the bag is full when you deposit more mess than you clean up. The Dyson does away with paper bags, and the transparent dust compartment makes it easy to see when it needs emptying. The Recyclone's attachments make light work of many tasks, including

be curtains for all of us, but he did not mention how hopeless they are to clean. In Hong Kong I bought a venetian blind cleaner for less than £1. It has a rigid grip with seven fluffy fingers but it does not work. The fingers are rigid and do not fit the spacing of my blinds.

TIM WAPSHOTT

The Recyclone costs £249.99 from Dyson (01666

Nineties look without a label

Fashion was so much easier in previous decades. In the Seventies, all you had to do was to pull together an assemblage of flares and tank tops in ghastly shades of mustard and you looked the part. In the Eighties, you had to be flash: covered in gold, padded at the shoulders and displaying an ostentatious designer label at an equally brassy price.

These days, it is not enough to have "the look" — the highest killer-heel shoes, with a bit of fur and a micro mini. You have to be in a label that shouts "designer" *and* have specific items — the latest Nike Air Max trainers, the little Prada bag, *that* Dolce & Gabbana corset dress.

The Nineties is all about labels, and being fashionable means knowing your Dolce & Gabbana from your Gucci. It is not about quantity, but quality: owning a few beautifully cut suits, a couple of pairs of embroidered evening shoes, one little silk handbag. And they have to be just so. Those almost-there designs won't do.

Which is why even the staidest department stores are wooing Britain's top designers to produce lines that will attract the new generation of discerning customers.

Paul Frith, for example, is working with Bhs; Clements Ribeiro with Dorothy Perkins; Ben di Lisi, Jasper Conran and Pierce Fionda (and soon Maria Grachvogel) with Debenhams; and, next year, Amanda Wakeley with Principles.

Most of the designers see their department-store collaborations not as competition but additions to their own ranges. Debbie Lovejoy, the director of public relations for Ben de Lisi, says the designer's BDL range for Debenhams is aimed at a new type of customer. "It was created to get to a wider audience," she says. "Not every woman can afford to buy a dress from the collection, but now everyone can own a Ben de Lisi design."

In addition, own-label ranges are springing up in many department stores. Fenwick has its own small collection in Bond Street. Debenhams has several ranges, from its popular J Taylor label to its luxurious Debut eveningwear. Harvey Nichols's team has put together about 45 pieces, featuring key silhouettes of this season. Even House of Fraser, better known for Home Counties outfits than couture, has an upbeat, stylish range called Linea, featuring the latest catwalks designs and fabrics, most of them for under £100.

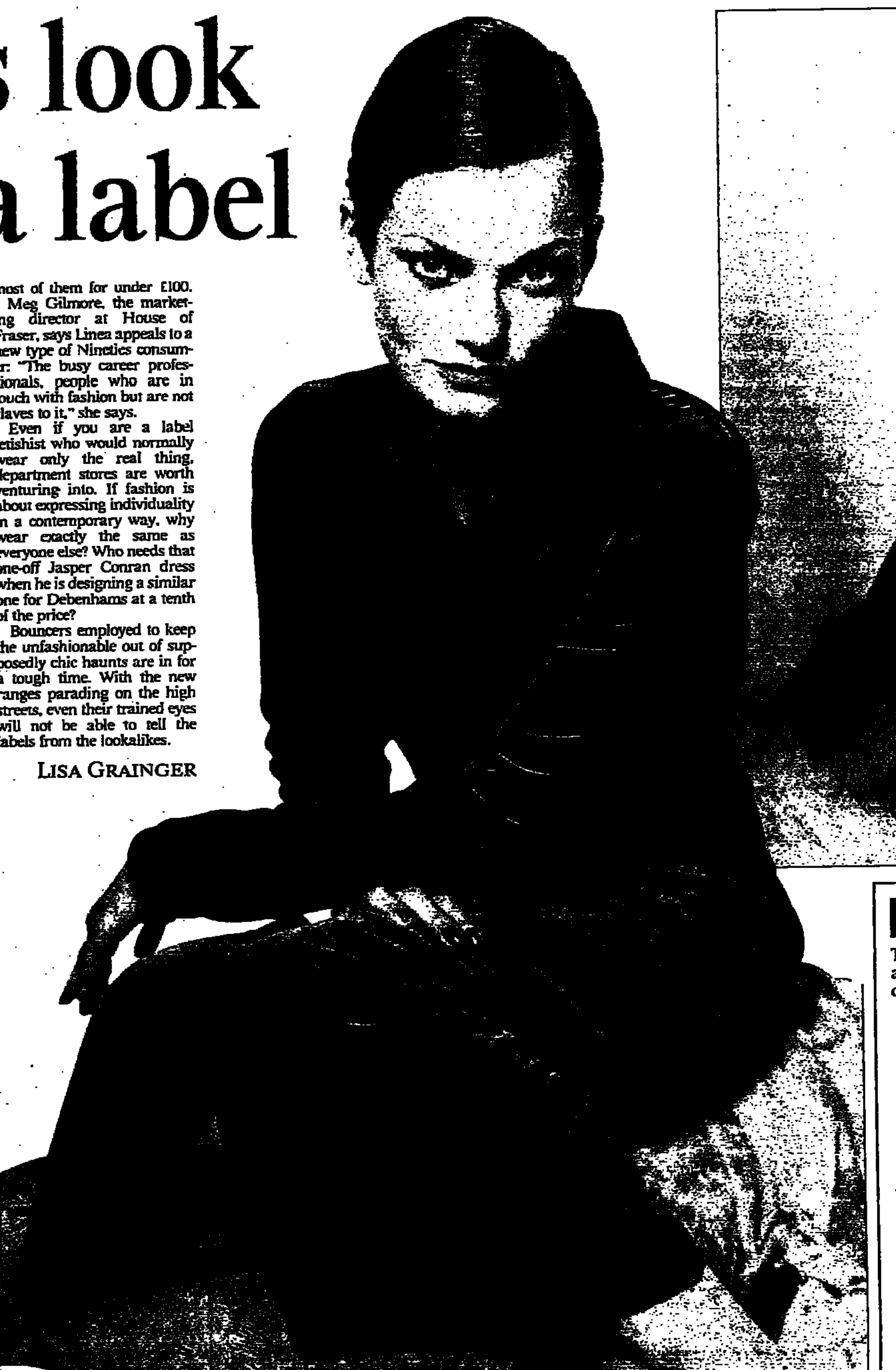
Meg Gilmore, the marketing director at House of Fraser, says Linea appeals to a new type of Nineties consumer: "The busy career professionals, people who are in touch with fashion but are not slaves to it," she says.

Even if you are a label fetishist who would normally wear only the real thing, department stores are worth venturing into. If fashion is about expressing individuality in a contemporary way, why wear exactly the same as everyone else? Who needs that one-off Jasper Conran dress when he is designing a similar one for Debenhams at a tenth of the price?

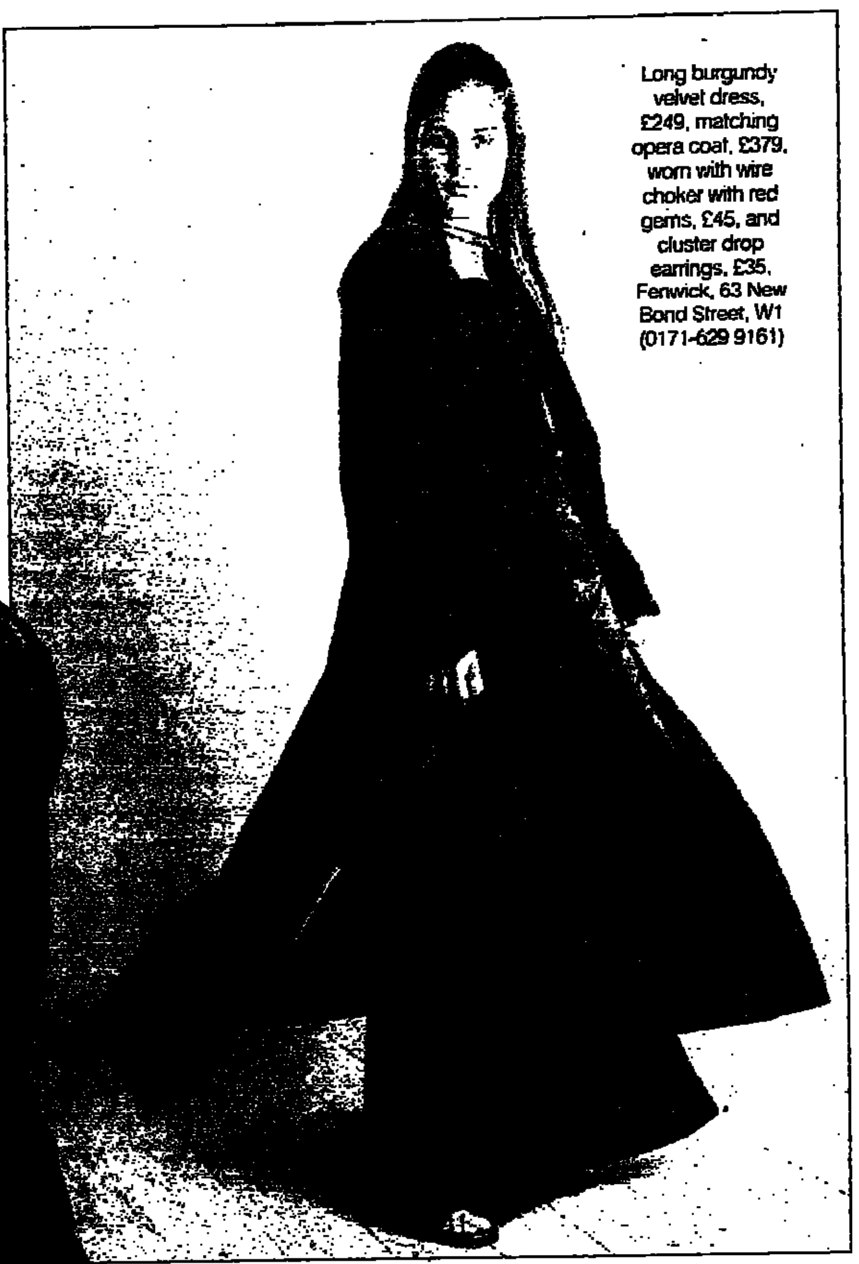
Bouncers employed to keep the unfashionable out of supposedly chic haunts are in for a tough time. With the new ranges parading on the high streets, even their trained eyes will not be able to tell the labels from the lookalikes.

LISA GRAINGER

LEFT: gold lace dress, £60, Debenhams branches (0171-408 4444). Burgundy suede mules, £39.99, Ravel branches nationwide (0171-436 3126)



ABOVE: brown velvet button-through dress, £50, Debenhams branches nationwide (0171-408 4444)



Long burgundy velvet dress, £249, matching opera coat, £379, worn with wire choker with red gems, £45, and cluster drop earrings, £35, Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)

ABOVE: brown suede-front cardigan, £70, and brown stretch flat-front trousers, £45, Linea, selected House of Fraser stores nationwide, (0171-963 2236)

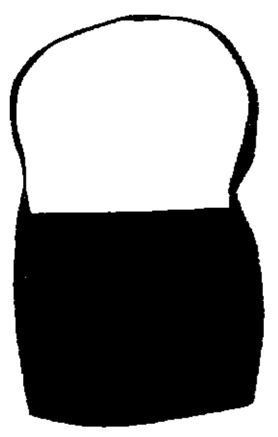
ABOVE: silver stretch T-shirt, £99, grey wool trousers, £140, Harvey Nichols, W1 (0171-235 5000), and the Victoria Quarter, Leeds (0113-204 8888)

Hair and make-up by **Sally Kvalheim** for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774). Styling by **Amandip Uppal**

THREE OF A KIND

THERE IS one accessory that every woman needs: a handy, but trendy, sack of a bag to fill with her daily buys. Here are three of the best. LG.

RIGHT: mustard-coloured leather shopper, £139, Furla, Fenwick (0171-629 9161)



Black and brown stripe suedette shopper, £21.99, Accessorize (0171-313 3000)

Black leather shopper with gold buckle, £195, Russell & Bromley (0171-629 6903)

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Missing from the menagerie: one three-foot blue fur adder and one grey and balding bedtime pal. Put out a bulletin to Pizza Express

Mr Panda's brush with extinction

LIFE AND **SOUL**

JANE SHILLING

Probably my most significant act of the half-term holiday was to forget to include Alexander's panda in our entourage as we set off for Kent. I am a panicky departer at the best of times. Have I packed my hairbrush? I can't remember. Where might I have put it? Hard to say. And while I'm at it, what about Alexander's toothbrush? Perhaps I had better just pop back indoors and check. Oh no, here they are. But then, I cannot be quite certain that I turned off the gas. Also, I forgot to shout "Goodbye, dear..Don't forget to walk the rottweiler," outside the front door in a clearly audible voice for the benefit of any burglars who may be casing the joint . . .

This sort of carry-on drives any luckless chap who witnesses it raving mad. At least one swore never to take me away for the weekend *ever again* after my third dash back into the house to check that the timer on the drawing-room light was properly set. Alexander, for the time being, is fairly patient about it — as well he might be, since he seems incapable of going anywhere without a baggage train rather like that of some 19th-century explorer, full of fishing nets and cleft sticks and iron rations and spare pairs of this and that, which really requires the services of several stout native bearers to carry it all.

So we got to Grandma's house, and unpacked all the trunks, and there were his trains and his Star Wars toys and Cindy the three-foot blue fur-fabric puff-adder, who came from London Zoo and to whom he is inexplicably devoted. But of Mr Panda, Alexander's inseparable companion since his very first Christmas, there was no sign.

I drove back home with mixed feelings. The idea of my little boy going to sleep in a strange bed without the comforting paw of Mr P wrung my heartstrings, rather. But on the other hand, Linda, our nanny, and I have been conducting for some time a covert campaign to reduce the influence of Mr Panda in our household — Linda because she finds the sight of a six-year-old trailing a soft toy around more emetic than adorable; me for more complicated reasons.

The fact is, I do not care for Mr P. It is hard to say why, exactly. His appearance, it is true, is not prepossessing — the matted, grimy fur; the fixed, blank gaze. Also, he converses (with Alexander's assistance) in a kind of muffled shriek which I find so intolerably irritating that I have occasionally been moved, Miss Trunchbull-style, to hurl him (the panda, rather than the child) from an upstairs window. But it is more than that. Frankly, there is something of the night about him.

Watching Simon Russell Beale's creepily brilliant performance as Widmerpool in *A Dance to the Music of Time*, I found myself thinking that he put me in mind of someone. Now, everyone has their own private Widmerpool, and I can instantly think of several among my own past acquaintance — most of them former high officials of the Oxford Union. But it was not just of them that Russell Beale reminded me. There was someone else. Someone I couldn't quite put my finger on, with just that quality of fussy malevolence . . . and as I opened the front door on my return from Kent, I knew at once who it was. There he was, sitting on the bottom stair where I had left him, an expression of pained reproof upon his grey and balding snout. It was Widmerpool in a furry pelt.

"Oh, Mr P," I said. "Your time has come. It's the Old Pandas' Home for you." I escorted him upstairs and stuffed him into a hatbox on top of the wardrobe, too high for Alexander to reach even if he stands on a chair. And then I went downstairs, poured myself a large whisky and watched the last part of *D to the M of T* with a light heart.

In the small hours, I woke. Perhaps it was the whisky, or it might have been the unaccustomed silence of the house when Alexander is not in it: whatever the cause, I felt uneasy. In my mind a conviction began to form, that if Alexander ever got to hear about this — and somehow I felt sure he would — sooner or later it would be the Old Mummys' Home for me. "Oh, don't be ridiculous," I said to myself. "It's just a stupid stuffed toy."

But then, strangely enough, I found myself getting out of bed. I retrieved the nasty old thing from the hatbox, tucked him under Alexander's duvet and got back into bed, feeling a complete idiot. The grandparents, when I went down to fetch Alexander, had had soft toy dramas of their own, though of a more benign nature. Cindy the snake had accompanied them to Canterbury (a shameless flouting of Linda's No Toy Animals Outside the Bedroom rule), and been left behind in Pizza Express.

Jolly good riddance, I fear I would have said. But my mother, more tender-hearted than I, rang the restaurant in agonies of guilt, to see if the reptile had been found. "Three-foot blue fur adder," said the efficient girl on the phone. "Righty-ho. I'll just go and check." A long pause, during which my mother wondered how to break the news to Alexander that Cindy had gone back to the wild. Then the girl came back on the line. "Has it," she asked, as though Canterbury Pizza Express were teeming with bright blue vipers and she needed some kind of distinguishing mark for identification purposes, "got a sticking-out tongue?"

"I could never *possibly* have imagined," said my mother, rather faintly, as she recounted this conversation, "that my old age would be so full of incident."

'I was treated just like one of the family'

Naomi Lawson worked as an au pair in America for a year and had a great time

Tearful Louise Woodward, during her trial in Boston for the murder of one of her charges

BBC

Above: Naomi Lawson with Jacqueline, aged three, and Jon-Paul, eight, photographed last summer in the back garden of their parents' home in New York State

Left: Wendy Craig as Nanny Barbara in the drama series Nanny, set during the Second World War and shown on BBC1 in 1983

I worked as a nanny in the United States in my year out before going to university, and not only did I come through unscathed, but I loved it. I would advise anyone who was considering becoming an au pair to leap at the chance. And I would tell any American family to take a British au pair.

I was sent to the States by EF Au Pair, the firm that sent Louise Woodward to work with the Eappens. Obviously I can't speak for anyone involved in that case, but during my year with the family I worked for I had no problems. Neither did I have any complaints about the agency.

However, perhaps the system needs to be clarified. An au pair is not just someone to look after your children. It is a cultural exchange programme. At its best, it is about introducing your children to people from other countries, bringing someone into your home and showing them your part of the world. It is quite different from employing a nanny.

It can be wonderful for everyone involved, and nobody should be deterred from going to the States because of what happened to Louise Woodward. That was a one in a million incident.

I have seen criticism of EF Au Pair's selection, interview and vetting process, but in my case the agency was very thorough. The first meeting I had was at Easter 1996, about five months before I went to the States.

Initially, during the day-long meeting in London, the agency told us what the job involved and we were given individual interviews. All the potential au pairs had to fill in a detailed application form. We had to get a medical check-up from a GP, who issued the agency with a report. We also had to provide personal references; I gave the name of a teacher and two childcare contacts I had from a babysitting circle I ran at home in London. All were followed up by the agency.

After that, it was time to provide a legal reference. A JP whom I know declared that I did not have a criminal past. Other au pairs got the police to give a legal report stating that they, too, had no criminal record. In the context of the Louise Woodward case, I do not see what else the agency could have done to check credentials.

I was not contacted by the agency for another four months, when it then gave me the name of an American family who liked the sound of me. So the agency was not rushing into things.

I had quite a lot of childcare experience before I applied to be an au pair in America. As well as my babysitting circle, I had worked in schools and looked after children of all ages, so I knew about what I was letting myself in for.

However, when I arrived in the US, like all the other au pairs, I had to complete a five-day full-time course at a college in New York City, where I learnt a lot more.

As well as basic subjects like hygiene and safety, we were taught first aid — everything from treating cuts and bruises to spotting the symptoms of illnesses and what a child's reactions might be. We were also taught resuscitation and life-saving techniques. But it was not all trauma. We were advised on crafts and hobbies, nutrition and menus, and how to entertain a bored child on a rainy day.

The agency was not just dumping us there and leaving us to get on with it. There was a lot of follow-up support from EF Au Pair after my placement in Effening, in upstate New York. A buddy system was organised, where another girl who had been there for several months teamed up with us for advice and support. I must not be sexist: it could have been a boy au pair, as there are quite a few of them, but I was assigned a German girl who was working nearby. In turn, I became the buddy of an English girl.

Each month, we would meet with other nannies in the area and discuss what we were doing. The agency also assigned a local co-ordinator who monitored our progress with regular visits and phone calls. Any problems could be discussed with her. The au pairs would meet up in cafés and malls, or head down to New York City for the day, so I had a good social life and a lot of support.

But you are there to work, not just to have fun. Like any job, you have to knuckle down and get on with it. If you are happy with the work environment and your employers, you will enjoy life even more.

I was with a wonderful family, looking after Jon-Paul, who was eight, and Jacqueline, who was three. They were lovely children, and to make things even better I got on well with their parents, Debra and Paul. They knew that it was a cultural exchange and they understood that I was young, that the hours — 45 per week — were long and that the work could be hard.

They told me that if I had any problems, or if I could not handle things, I should tell them. They were aware of the stresses and made sure I knew that I could have time off if I needed it. The only time I had to take a break was when I had flu for three days, and Debra looked after the children herself. They really made me feel like one of the family. It was as if I were a big sister to the children, and that was wonderful. It can be difficult for parents suddenly to have a teenager living with them.

It was not just me being unusually fortunate. All the other au pairs who I got to know got on extremely well with the parents and children they worked with. If things did not work out, the agency gave you an opportunity to move on somewhere else.

Yes, there can be pitfalls, but if the family understand the concept of an au pair as a cultural exchange, there should not be problems.

Even in the current situation, I would still have no hesitation about becoming an au pair in the States again (though my parents might not be quite so happy as they were last year). It would be a great shame if American families or British au pairs were deterred from using the system.

American families are much more open than, say, the French, and while it can be hard work, it was an incredibly rewarding experience. I would not have missed it.

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Guidelines to follow in the search for child care

REX

FINDING the right nanny or au pair, always a difficult task, has become an even greater challenge for parents after the trial of Louise Woodward.

Just how should parents vet their staff? Are there key questions that could help to identify potential personality flaws?

The whole process can be hit or miss, and selection of staff is down to experience, compatibility and instinct.

There is also concern among domestic agencies in Britain that Americans are exploiting an immigration loophole that permits inexperienced young women aged under 26 to work as au pairs, but who are then employed by families as full-time child carers.

The Department of Employment has laid down firm rules about questions that should be always be asked by

THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO ASK

nanny recruitment agencies. These seem an absolute minimum for parents who choose to do their own advertisements and selections.

Michaela Jones, a former nanny who set up a Hop on the Ball agency in Primrose Hill, North London, two years ago, follows the Government guidelines on questioning, then inquires even further — as should parents themselves.

Miss Jones emphasises that an au pair in Britain should work alongside a mother, put in a limited number of hours each day, and be allowed to study and enjoy the culture of the host country.

Government guidelines for employing a carer in Britain insist that employers should know the individual's complete employment history. If there are any gaps — even of a few weeks — they should be checked out.

Potential employees are asked to list in detail experience they have had caring for children, the age of their charges, and say if they are willing to undertake extra duties, such as light housework or cooking.

Miss Jones's agency also asks carers whether they have a driving licence, and if they have a criminal record. Nannies must also state if they are comfortable with sole charge, or if they prefer to work with a parent. All references are followed up by telephone check.

Coping with emergencies is another critical factor, especially in London, where parents will always tell a nanny never to answer the front door unless they know who is calling. Similarly, they will be warned about crank telephone calls from people pretending to be the school doctor. In central London, urban myths about dodgy professionals prevail.

The effect of the Woodward case has also been felt by nannies. It seems that many now believe it is their paramount duty to point out even the slightest bump or bruise suffered by a child while in their care.

"Even if a girl forgets to tell the mother or father on the same evening, a good nanny will remember by the following day," Miss Jones says.

VALERIE ELLIOTT

A French company claims it can help couples determine the sex of their baby. **Aileen Ballantyne** reports

Playing God with natural selection

AFP

Sylvaine Campartas and her husband decided they would have only one child and went to Rightbaby. They got what they wanted: a boy, Clément, now two years old

The joyful announcement "It's a boy!" or "It's a girl!" is part of the thrill for most first-time parents. Happily ignorant of the sex of their child until it takes its first breath, they readily accept nature's gift-wrapping — at least first time around.

But by the time a second child is on the way, many couples hoping to strike the perfect balance — a boy for you, a girl for me — will discover the sex of their child through a scan early in the pregnancy.

Choice is not usually a luxury expectant parents are given when it comes to their child's sex; no matter how much seafood is eaten in the quest for a boy, nature's random selection has proved to be a more powerful force than any myth. Still, a few fish dinners have to be preferable to the technique employed by ancient Greeks desperate for a son and heir, who willingly and painfully bound up their left testicle during the lovemaking act in the mistaken belief that boys came only from the right testicle.

'Ancient Greeks bound up their left testicle, believing boys came only from the right testicle'

Detecting a trend — parents curious about their baby's sex might also want to play a part in determining it — a French organisation, Rightbaby, is currently attempting to raise its profile in Britain.

The company claims to have already given 153 couples in France the means to choose the sex of their baby, and it is now looking to drum up business in Britain.

For £199 a time, it promises that you will have le "Rightbaby" — ie, of the sex you choose. If you end up with le "Wrongbaby" after employing its methods, Rightbaby is willing to commit (verbally at least) to returning the money, but, of course, promises nothing regarding the future welfare, upkeep and cost of bringing up Wrongbaby.

For thousands of years — long before the current baby-as-designer-accessory trend — couples who wanted to choose the sex of their baby have been all too willing to seek "remedies" that purported to alter the 50/50 balance of nature.

Old wives' tales abound on choosing the sex of a baby, including the extremely strange suggestion that having sex while the north wind blows will not only help keep the chill at bay, but is more likely to produce a son.

The Rightbaby technique involves lovemaking on certain dates — and there are apparently plenty of couples willing to give it a try. In terms of a licence to print money, it appears to be little short of gold dust for the company behind it.

But this is not double-glazing being sold. Rightbaby promises a near 100 per cent success rate just by following the favourable dates on a "scientifically proven personal calendar". This might also tempt many couples to have "just one more baby" in the hope that they can be certain of the sex.

Rightbaby plans to set up a personal-counselling service in every area of Britain to warn couples that, in spite of its claims, the couple themselves may make a mistake, and have sex on the "wrong" day for the child of their choice. But does the system work?

Sylvaine Campartas from Avignon, a Rightbaby client, wanted a baby boy and got just that when Clément, now two years old, was born.

"We had decided to have one child because my husband is away a lot — he works for a transport company — and I didn't want to be coping on my own with several children," she said. "We chose to have a boy because that is what my husband wanted."

Rightbaby claims that during the past six years it has tested the method on 155 French couples, of whom 153 successfully got the child of the sex they wanted. These results, it says, have been verified by a French *huisier*, a form of judicial auditor.

According to Rightbaby, this is how its method works. Taking the (correct) premise that sperm containing the Y chromosome produce boys and sperm containing the X chromosome produce girls, the company's brochures states: "The ovum membrane itself has a charge which selects the sperm containing the X or Y chromosome.

"French scientist [Patrick] Schoun found that nature's way was to alternate this charge at different times so as to vary the gender of humans and other mammals."

But several British fertility experts are dubious about the validity of the technique.

Dr Alan Handyside, a leading embryologist, who, with Professor Lord Robert Winston, pioneered the only scientifically proven method of determining the sex of a child six years ago, was highly sceptical, not least because Rightbaby has never published its findings in a reputable medical journal.

"Their literature reads like an episode of the *X-Files*," Dr Handyside said. "There is a smattering of science, but it doesn't stand up to close scrutiny."

The method pioneered by Handyside and Winston uses test tube baby techniques (IVF) — and relies on the removal of a single cell from a three-day embryo when it is no bigger than the full stop at the end of this sentence.

Only embryos of the "right" sex are replaced in the woman's womb. But in Britain, the method is available only for couples at high risk of passing on serious gender-linked diseases such as haemophilia — whose faulty gene can be passed on harmlessly from mother to daughter, but has a higher risk of producing the disease in male offspring.

Those wanting a choice for no more than social purposes must continue to trust in nature.

Rightbaby argues that if full details of its work had been widely publicised before it became a commercial enterprise, after 14 years of research Schoun would not be able to profit from his work.

Among British scientists, this argument does not hold water. They say that it is possible that publishing after having applied for a patent would prevent others from cashing in on an original idea.

Concerns about Rightbaby's apparent haste in marketing its product were expressed by Professor Robert Edwards, the test-tube baby pioneer.

As editor of the medical journal *Human Reproduction*, and the father of five daughters, he believes that a reliable and non-invasive method of sex selection is desirable — but he had heard nothing of Rightbaby.

"There have been many false claims in this field," he said. "Something like this should not be put on the market before it is published and reviewed by other scientists."

Dr Peter Liu, managing director of the London Gender Clinic, said the Rightbaby method would probaby be about 10 per cent more reliable than counting on nature's random selection.

"Many of their references to other work are inadequate," he said. "We have looked and just cannot find them. It is all rather uncomfortable."

The London Gender Clinic offers a "sperm sorting" service, which involves artificial insemination, for couples who want to choose their child's sex. It claims a success rate of up to 25 per cent above nature's 50/50 chance of choosing the sex of a baby.

Or if all else fails and you really want a boy, then marry an older man. Liverpool researchers have recently found that during or shortly after the last two world wars — when more women married older men — there were more boys born than girls.

Nature moves in mysterious ways, and maybe it is better left that way.

● *The London Gender Clinic, 140 Park Road, Hendon, London NW4 3TL (0181-202 2900).*

Sorry, I don't want new labour

'These days men feel obliged to be present at the birth of their children. One father, however, reckons this is a bad idea'

CORBIS

A father's first view of his baby through the hospital door, 1953

Daddy darling: Sage and Mark George with Tilly, aged three weeks. Mark was watching television when Tilly was born

There is something fine about the old-fashioned custom of keeping the father-to-be waiting outside the hospital maternity room, although nowadays he is not allowed to smoke a cigar while he waits to be introduced to a clean and neatly swaddled new baby.

I, by contrast, was very much inside the maternity ward for the birth of my first child and I did not enjoy one minute of it.

Most men have not had the experience of watching a serious operation or had any intimate contact with blood and guts, and it is all a bit of a trauma. I did not think I was going to pass out or anything, because I am not squeamish, but I just stood around feeling superfluous and wishing I was not there, although I did desperately want to see my baby.

Like most men of my generation, I was born without the blessing of my father's presence in the hospital — he was not even in the same town. However, many of us in this same generation now feel that we must be present at the births of our children.

The birth would have happened whether I was there or not, but for my first child I was blindly led to think that it was my duty to be there. So I went, and it taught me not to do it again. You would not wander into an appendectomy, would you? Even if it was your partner's.

Sage, my wife, and I had discussed children and childbirth before we got married. She had said she would not want me to be there, and I certainly did not want to be there. So we had agreed on it.

I would definitely have helped if she had gone into labour in the kitchen at home, but she was in a hospital with a team of people who deliver babies all the time. If she had then changed her mind, I would have gone in.

Mind you, she did say that if she changed her mind I should ignore her. But I would have stayed at the head of the bed and stuck like a limpet to the wall, because I would have felt that I would have been encroaching on Sage's dignity.

However, if you are actually there it is extremely difficult not to look. With my first child I wanted to see her emerge into the world, but you cannot help but see a lot of things you don't want to see, and things are being torn that you don't want to see being torn. And I know what Sage is like — she would punch my lights out if I went near her when she was in pain.

But it is not just the pain. That would be fine. It is all the rest of it. I think it is extremely undignified for a woman to have her husband see her being hacked around and turned inside out. And no man on this planet is used to seeing another man with a rubber glove doing an internal examination on *his* wife.

Before Sage went into labour I was with her for as long as she wanted me to be. We talked and played Scrabble after she had been given the epidural, and we agreed that she would tell me when to leave. She knew I wanted to watch *NYPD Blue* and when it was about to start she gave me the all clear and told me to leave.

So I went downstairs and watched television. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was on by the time I got the phone call from the obstetrician telling me that Sage had had a healthy baby. He would not say whether it was a boy or a girl, and asked if I would like to go up in about 20 minutes.

I bounded upstairs and waited outside the delivery room, where I could hear the baby crying. And there I had to wait, watching the midwife coming and going. She would not let me in the room until Sage said she was ready. It was a great build-up, terribly exciting: there was just an inch of wood between me and the baby. And when they let me in, there was a beautiful baby girl.

For both my daughters I recorded a tape so that the first music they heard was not anything by the Spice Girls, it was something decent. Florence heard Stevie Ray Vaughan straight after she was born and Tilly got Neil Young's *Hurricane* 20 minutes after she had been delivered.

But what's 20 minutes? I was seeing her for the first time and that 20 minutes made no difference. My feelings were just as strong as when Florence was born, and when I played Tilly her music I burst into tears.

So, in a nutshell, I don't think it really matters when you first see your child; not if it is a long period of time like three years, obviously, but in terms of just a few minutes it does not matter to me.

The big thing about labour and pregnancy is that you have to do what you want to do. Of course, you listen to all the available medical advice, but if you have a choice, choose what you want. Don't listen to peer pressure or do what everyone else does.

I always said that Sage should do exactly what she wanted to do, and that is not a lack of support, it is the exact opposite.

MARK GEORGE

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CHANGING TIMES

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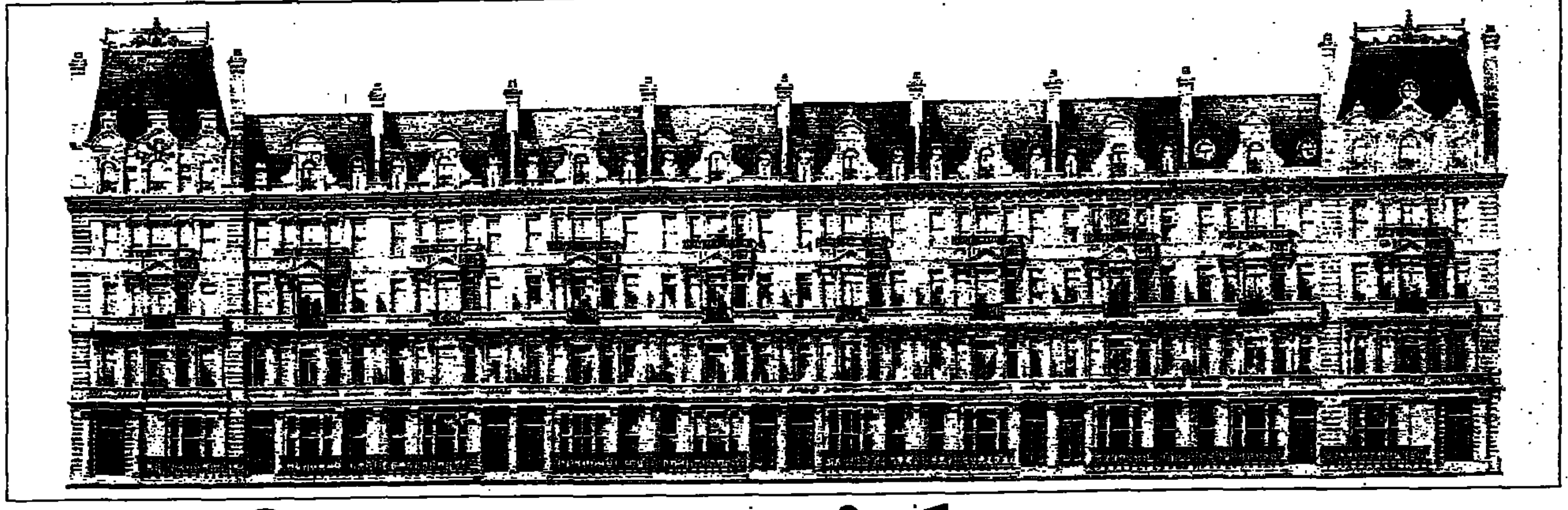
A £15-million house in Regent's Park comes with a Rolls-Royce. But is it little more than a sales gimmick, asks **Rachel Kelly**



If I were a rich man...

It is something of a disappointment to arrive at Number One Cambridge Gate, a £15 million house in Regent's Park, North London, which went on the market last week complete with a £250,000 *Rolls-Royce*.

I expected to find the handcrafted Silver Spur in the drive, and perhaps a red carpet leading to an imposing front door opened by a man in a penguin suit. In fact, the builders haven't quite finished work on the front of the end-of-terrace 40-room French-Empire style, 1875 mansion (pictured right), and there is scaffolding on the houses next door, which are being converted into swanky flats as part of the development. The Roller is discreetly parked in the mews garage behind the house.

But close the heavy front door to the mansion and one is transported into a different world, one where the glass-domed swimming pool can be transformed into a ballroom dance-floor and where bedrooms mean four-posters and under-floor heating.

This summer the house became the blank canvas on which 30 interior designers worked their magic for the owners, Balfour Beatty and a consortium of bold Singaporean investors. Such were the divergent styles that one critic described the house as "like visiting the Geffrye Museum on an acid trip".

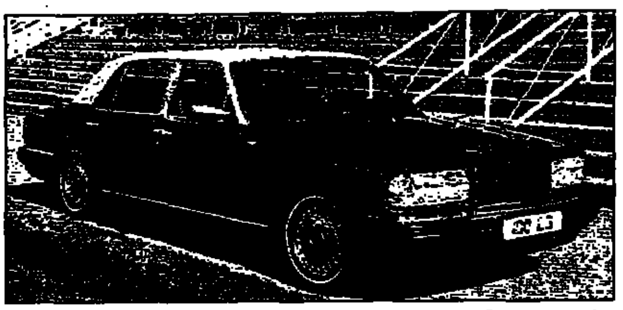
The house has since calmed down. Much of the furniture used for the exhibition has disappeared and, though the rooms are still decorated in divergent style, the overall effect is totally harmonious.

The house has eight bedroom suites, six reception rooms, three kitchens, a library, study, wine cellar and its restoration is the culmination of a programme started by the Crown Estate 50 years ago to restore the war-damaged Nash terraces and villas in Regent's Park. Two-thirds of the houses were derelict and the Atlee government set up a commission to advise on the resurrection of Nash's architectural layout.

The fully decorated house is ready to move into, though the furniture remaining from the interior design exhibition is not included in the price.

Averil Butt, of the selling agents De Groot Collis, says: "We have had considerable unofficial interest in the house. The house would be suitable for someone who wanted to entertain on a grand scale, perhaps a foreign buyer."

Ms Butt denies that throwing in a car is a marketing gimmick. A roll-call of the famous were involved in its design, the result of a competition set by Rolls-Royce, and won by the designer Joanna Wood. She took the black and yellow racing colours of the Duchess of Westminster as her theme, and David Linley designed the marquetry. Picnic accessories, champagne flutes and glasses are by Asprey, and the yellow and black crockery by Spode. It would be possible to buy the house without the car at a reduced price. But is it little more than a sales gimmick?



Bonus: a 1980 Rolls-Royce Silver Spur worth £250,000

Ms Butt says: "The car was commissioned as part of the exhibition held in the house this June before we put it up for sale. At this level of the market, talk of gimmicks is inappropriate. You have got to get the basic product right."

Willie Gething, of agents Property Vision, says a house must be "dressed" for it to sell. He says: "If it's done well, a buyer will fall in love with a house that's ready to walk into. Empty houses don't sell."

However, David Forbes, of Chesterfields, is lukewarm about throwing in a car with this sort of property. He says: "Offering a car as a carrot is unusual. Houses like this are usually marketed to an "A" list of selected buyers whom agents know may be interested. Only then will a brochure be produced."

Lower down the market, sales ploys are more common, especially in a market where agents are desperate for commission. The supply of houses is low — around 1.3 million this year compared to two million at the height of the boom in 1988. Think of the right sales ploy and you just might secure that commission.

One offer from Savills' Oxford office is a free valuation, and should Savills sell the house, removal costs within 100 miles will be paid.

Richard Marchand, of the Devon agents Marchand Petit, says that throwing in a boat for houses on sale on Cornish creeks can work.

Other sales ploys include lordships of the manor or livestock. Sometimes a quick-thinking agent can pull off a sale. Andrew Buchanan, of John D. Wood, recalls selling to a Mr Godfrey who bought a house in Godfrey street, and selling a house in the Kings Road, once the home of Thomas Arne, author of *Rule Britannia*, to a patriotic Chelsea *grande dame*.

But ultimately, a house or flat that answers buyers' needs at the right price will sell. If a des res has that power shower or those low voltage downlighters on dimmers that buyers want, gimmicks are not needed. Sensible agents will more often suggest that owners clear away childrens' toys, plant flowers in the garden or clean the windows rather than include the Volkswagen in their property sale.

Buyers should always be suspicious of extras. There is, after all, no such thing as a free Rolls-Royce.

- *Agents: De Groot Collis, 0171-235 8090.*

The first-floor dining room at No 1 Cambridge Gate, with the table laid for dinner

The imposing façade of the terrace

The ground floor reception room of the house, built in 1875 in French-Empire style

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Victoria 20 mins by rail - Norbury BR station nearby.
3 bedroom terraced house.
£99,000 for quick sale
Immaculate order.
3 bedrooms, 2 receptions, fitted kitchen, external utility, modern bathroom suite, double glazed windows & porch. GFCH, 2 open fireplaces, picture rails, south facing rear garden.
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New Wetlands
private development.
4 bedroomed terraced house in mews crescent quiet with rural views.
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£437,500.
Tel: 01580 200541

PUTNEY £399,950 A sub semi det fam hse with 100 ft gdn, off st pkg, 4 bds, 2 lge receps, 2 bth, kit/brkn, cellar and lge gdn rm. Period features, viewing recommended. Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward 0181 785 2122.

PUTNEY
Unique Loft style maisonette with direct river views, 3 illuminated roof terraces, 2 waterfalls, etc arranged over 3 levels with modern kitchen, 1/2 reception, 2/3 bedrms, formal dining rm, luxury bath rm, shower rm. Communal courtyard
£275,000. Share FHLD
0181 875 1610.

BARNS SW13
Charming recently renovated Victorian terraced cottage providing flexible accommodation with 24' garden, Reception room, kitchen/ breakfast room conservatory, bathroom, 2 bed rooms, converted loft room.
£220,000.
Private sale
0181 876 6660

BELGRAVIA

EATON PLACE SW1 Stylish 1 bed flat, recp, dining rm, kitchen, bath. Lse to 2019. £295,000 Best Gapp 0171 730 9253.

GRAHAM TERR SW1 Newly refurb period hse with pretty gdn, recp, din, 2/3 beds, 2 baths, kit, utility. £595,000 F/H. Best Gapp 0171 730 9253.

WILTON TERR SW1 penthouse, direct lift, recp, din, kit/b'fast rm. 2 beds, 2 baths, roof terr. Lse to 2042, £1,000,000. Best Gapp 0171 730 9253.

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REGENTS PK P/B 2 bed 2 bath apartment, underground parkg. £295,000. 0171 586 9842

WC1 1 bed flat port man blk, lift, nr tube, £112,000 Bunbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

WC1 Studio flat 9th flr, port man blk, lift, nr tube, £68,000 Bunbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

W1 Flat, new cond, ex loc, 3 beds, bright, sth fcg, recp, lift, prd bldg, nr gd sq, UF/F. £550pw Portman Heritage 0171 487 4994.

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BARBICAN EC2 Penthouse 1 bed flat (7th flr) Stainless kitchen, approx 13' high ceilings £145,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

BARBICAN EC2 Penthouse 1 bed flat (7th flr) Stainless kitchen, approx 13' high ceilings £145,000. Frank Harris & *Co 0171 600 7000.*

BARBICAN, EC2. 1 bed, 6th floor needs modernising, £135,000. Also small 1 bed £98,500. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

BARBICAN EC2 first flr 4 bed flat in portered block £178,000 Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

BARBICAN EC2 Please call for largest list of flats available for sale Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

CITY, E1. One bedroom 1st floor flat, private development, nr Tube, £72,500. Tel. Stock Page Stock 0171 251 4171

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CLERKENWELL, EC1. New development 1 bed from £140,000. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

LIMEHOUSE 2 bed overlooking marina, 22' reception, 2 balconies, garage £199,995 L/Hold 0171 480 6815.

LIMEHOUSE 2 bed, garage, Town house, GCH, wood floors, F/H £180K, Tel:0171 7028699

LONDON BRIDGE, SE1. Loft Style conversions in shell form from £79,000. Tel: 0171 242 0650

OFF FLEET ST EC4 2nd (top) flr one bed flat. Fully equipped kitchenette. Ideal pied-a-terre £119,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

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Only £158,000
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FULHAM

CLANCARTY ROAD SW6. 3 bed hse, immaculate condition, lge gdn. £335,000. 0171 736 2747

2 Dble bed refurb. G/Flat Nr Parson Green. Immed occup. L/H £139,950. Wallington 0171 731 4448/ 0467 700646.

FULHAM

LOFT old warehouse, huge studio reception, 2 beds/2 baths, big windows, original floor & brick walls, beautifully converted. £350,000. 0171 386 5617.

PETERBOROUGH ESTATE SW6. Fabulous 3 bed 2 bath, split level maisonette, currently being refurb to a very high spec. £369,000 L.H Marcus King Estates 0171 371 8222

SEAGRAVE RD SW6 Mod 2 bed town hse, front & back gdn, kit & dining area, reception, bath. F/H £210,000 Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911t 244 9838f

SW6 Super 4 bed/2 bath house. Lovely views over South Park to rear and from large roof terrace, patio garden. £490,000. Private viewing by appt today and enq: 0585 766559

PARSONS GREEN
Delightful 3 storey Victorian family house situated only yards from Parsons Green. 4 bedrms, 2 bathrms, (1 ensuite), large sitting rm, family rm. Cloak & cellar. Light, spacious hand-built kitchen/dining rm. opening onto beautiful well stocked 95 ft garden.
£580,000 FHLD No chain
0171 731 6458

SOUTH PARK
PARSONS GREEN, FULHAM SW6
Elegant Edwardian end of terrace 3/4 bed hse, direct views over South Park. 3 interconnecting recep rms kit/b'fast rm, 2 baths, 37' gdn, recently refurbished and modernised throughout. Ample resident's parking. Parsons Green tube nearby.
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Brookfield Partners
0171 371 7575

DULWICH

DULWICH VILLAGE
SE21
In a quiet, sought after road, this spacious Victorian family semi has 4 bedrms, 3 reception rms, original features including fireplaces, wooden floors. Mature sunny garden. Within catchment area of excellent village C of E, Dulwich hamlet & independent schools. OSP.
OIRO £325,000.
Tel: 0181 693 3813.

HIGHGATE

HIGHGATE VILLAGE N6
Prestigious interior designed town house in quiet cul-de-sac but with easy access to public transport. 3/4 bedrooms, newly fitted kitchen, garage. £375,000.
Tel: 0181 3482810

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

CHELSEA SW3(Kings Rd), beaut quiet 1 bed apt. Fab views, 1/lse. C/taker. £175K. 0467 445584

CORNWALL GARDENS SW7 First floor flat, 2 bed, south facing. £430,000 0171 589 6298.

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MUST SELL - REDUCED TO £259,900
Charming garden flat with own entrance in Scarsdale Villas. Newly decorated, hard wood floors. Bedroom with e/s shower room, study/guest room, bathroom, sitting room with french doors to paved courtyard. Very private with Banham security. 78 year lease Viewing only 10-13 November.
Tel: 0973 663267

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

MANSON MEWS Hse Sunnyside Dbl Recep 4 beds 2 baths FF kit util rm lge s/ terr lge gge £700,000 FH. 0171 373 0978

SW3 Priced for quick sale, 3 bed flat, direct acc to Brompton Rd Amenities, long lse, good dec order £269,950 Portman Heritage 0171 487 4994.

W8 Close Kensington high street, superior studio, separate K & B. £85,000. Tel:0171 6024861.

W8 F/H hse on 3 levels. Dbl draw rm, kit, conserv, 4 beds. No chain £660k 0171 938 2688

W8 Lux apt in secl. priv devpt. Draw rm, din.rm, kit, family rm, 4 beds £1.4m 0171 938 2688

W8 Refurb apt, 1st flr, beautifully presented, rec, kit, 2 beds bath. No chain 0171 938 2688

SW3
Off Kings Rd
Newly refurbished 3 bed flat overlooking gardens. Equidistant to the Kings Rd and River Thames.
L/H £284,950
Senate Int.
0171 408 2444

HOLLYWOOD ROAD, SW10
Large Terrace House on 4 floors. Open plan. 4 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double reception room, family room, kitchen, laundry room, study, storage, cellar, large garden.
Freehold £845,000
private sale. Floorplan available.
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TEL PM: 0171 736 9174

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CADOGAN SQ. SW1 2 flats, with views over sq. gdns. 3rd flr flat, recp, din, kit, 3 beds, 1 bath, 1 shwr. £945,000. 4th flat, recp, din, kit, 3 beds, 2 baths. £845,000. Lse to 2023 ISA. Knight Frank 0171 824 8171 Best Gapp 0171 730 9253.

MAYFAIR

MAYFAIR W1 Well arranged 2 bed 4th flr flat(lift) in 1930's building nr transport / shopping facilities & Parks. Would benefit from redecorating. Short lse. Extension avail £250,000ono. 0171 3790033

NOTTING HILL

NOTTING HILL GATE
Pretty Georgian house with 2 patios and garage in quiet part of Portobello Rd.
Large recep. Conservatory/ dining rm. 2 beds. Fitted kitchen & bathrm, Sunny roof terrace. Front patio gdn. Immaculate.
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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
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Fax 01296 395859.

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Nestling in the idyllic surroundings of a Hertfordshire country village and just thirty minutes from London is Twin Foxes. These magnificent three bedroom, three storey homes boast south facing gardens overlooking nothing but open countryside. The outstanding architecture is in perfect harmony with its rural setting. Whilst the interior contains many thoughtful touches designed for easy living. They include an integral garage, built-in vacuum system, points for stereo speakers in all main rooms, plus separate bathroom and shower room. There is even a choice of kitchen widths.

Twin Foxes is minutes from the A1, Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City, with trains at regular intervals to Kings Cross.

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For more information call sales on 01438 812 982.
Sales office open 10.30am – 5:30pm seven days a week.

TWIN FOXES
Woolmer Green, Knebworth, Herts. SG3 6QT
A WEATHERHEAD DEVELOPMENT

PROPERTY CONTINUES ON PAGES 10 & 11

Rooms with a view to filming

Erica Wagner

explores the hotel that became the setting for *A Dance to the Music of Time*

Hollington House Hotel: arrive by helicopter and be wrapped in privacy. From the balconies there are no other houses as far as the eye can see

What a relief to learn that other people, too, leave things behind in hotel room wardrobes. You can understand that Gianni Versace would have been a little preoccupied when Sting and Trudie Styler married in 1992 at the Hollington House Hotel in Wiltshire — what with dressing the beautiful bride and making sure that Trudie's £20,000 outfit was not disarranged by the snow-white steed that brought her to the altar — but when one of the world's top designers leaves his jacket somewhere, there is a good chance it will not have come from Marks & Sparks.

John Guy, the hotel's owner, discovered the jacket hanging in the wardrobe of Hollington's largest suite, where Versace had stayed. "It turned out that it was a very special prototype," says Mr Guy, whose hotel has been the backdrop for numerous celebrity weddings and now Channel 4's adaptation of Anthony Powell's *A Dance to the Music of Time*. "Everyone was in a panic about the jacket."

Mr Guy, an Australian who ran restaurants and hotels in Melbourne before opting for what he imagined would be the peace and quiet of the English countryside in 1992, was unfazed, however. The jacket was air-expressed back to Italy, and life at Hollington House returned to normal. Or what is normal for Hollington House, at any rate.

A fine Edwardian house in 25 acres, with 21 large, airy rooms, the hotel had a previous, rather more sedate existence as a Bupa nursing home before John and Penny Guy bought it five years ago.

It was built in 1904 by the splendidly named Festus E. Kelly, who added touches appropriate to his joyous moniker: the great entrance hall and some of the corridors are adorned with stained-glass windows depicting the seasons in the guise of slightly dead-eyed, Pre-Raphaelite style women; the high ceilings of the dining room and sitting room are exuberantly plastered. To say the least, the last traces of a nursing home have been banished; when we arrived a helicopter waited on the lawn to whisk a group of Quantel executives back to London (18 minutes to Battersea by chopper).

If you recognise the hotel in the picture, it is probably because you caught a glimpse of it, slightly altered, in *A Dance to the Music of Time*, or perhaps in one of the Fry-Laurie *Jeeves and Wooster* tales which were filmed there.

The Guys are no strangers to the whims of film people: before he left Melbourne in 1988 Mr Guy's hotel there had played host to the cast of *Neighbours* and various ABC film crews. "That meant I knew what I didn't want," he says. "When I'd dealt with ABC it caused terrible disruption to the guests, so this time I told the producers that I would close the hotel — they were here for four days — and instead of paying a site fee they could simply pay the revenue I would have taken from keeping the hotel open."

So directors Alvin Rakoff and Christopher Morahan arrived with vintage cars and portable tennis courts, the latter laid out on the lawn (home to the helicopter) beneath the stone-flagged balcony. In the dining room a piano was installed and the red wallpaper was covered by a subtler shade. Cameras were placed on the balcony of the dramatic entrace hall, which necessitated the removal of the enormous cut-glass chandelier, a day's job in itself.

All the while, John Gielgud, Edward Fox and James Purefoy sloped about the place, making their entrances and exits as required. "I pretty much kept out of the way," Mr Guy says. "But when they'd gone, you wouldn't have known they'd been here. It went off without a hitch."

Stately guest rooms, where visitors have a tendency to leave things behind

Jonathan Cake, left, and James Purefoy from the TV drama

Sadly, *Dance* has not done as well as Channel 4 might have hoped, attracting about three million viewers — fewer even than the BBC's disastrous *Ivanhoe*. Successful adaptations, such as the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice*, have caused visitor numbers at their "location houses", such as Lyme Park, in Cheshire, to soar: that house had 800 visitors the week after it was first seen on television.

But Mr Guy is unperturbed. Above all else he values the privacy his guests can experience here — looking out from the balcony, there are no other buildings as far as the eye can see — and he does not long for a stream of visitors to be tramping across his lawn. Not, of course, that he objects to a little publicity and a bustling hotel. "Every visitor is a potential guest," he says, handing me a list of tariffs.

It is indeed a beautiful place. I would not mind spending a weekend away here. And I would not feel so bad when I left something behind ... as surely I would be bound to do.

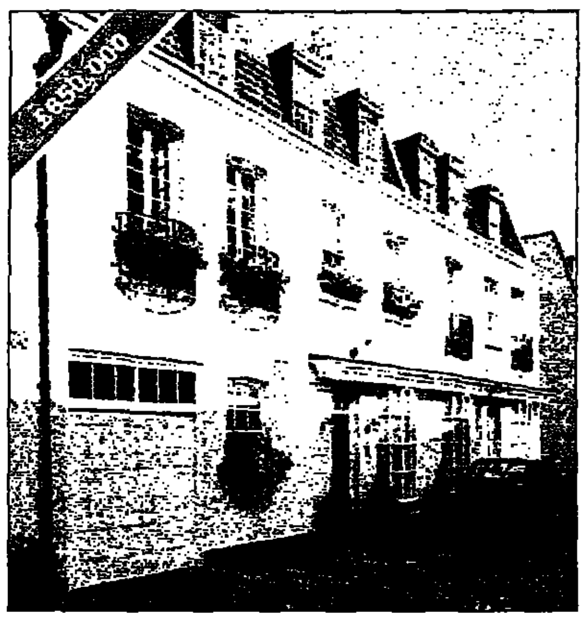
● *Hollington House Hotel, Woolton Hill, near Newbury, Berkshire RG20 9XA (01635 255100, fax 01635 255075).*

HOME SWAP

DEMAND for farmhouses has propelled the price of farmland in England and Wales to a record high, according to a survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors published this week. The average price of £6,959 per hectare in 1996 has risen to £7,833, an increase of 12.5 per cent.

"A two-tier market has evolved, the like of which we have not seen since the late 1980s; non-farming money has consistently outbid farmers for land with residential and sporting appeal" reports Justin Marking, of the agents Savills.

In East Sussex, £650,000 will buy Olives Farm, a 110-acre country estate at Broad Oak, near Heathfield. It comes with a Grade II listed 18th-century five-bedroom house, a converted three-bedroom oast house, beautiful formal gardens, a lake and swimming pool, surrounded by pasture and woodland. John D Wood 01342 326326.



A 32-year lease on this three-storey, three-bedroom terraced house with a garage in Lyall Mews, between Lyall Street and Lowndes Place, Belgravia, London, can be yours for £650,000. (Foxtons, 0171-973.2000).

The same sort of money will buy Flass, a Grade II* listed, eight-bedroom Palladian mansion in 15 acres of garden, paddocks and woodland in beautiful countryside, near Maulds Meaburn, Cumbria. It comes with a staff flat, a two-bedroom annexe, coach house and garaging. (Strutt & Parker, 01423 561274).

CHERYL TAYLOR

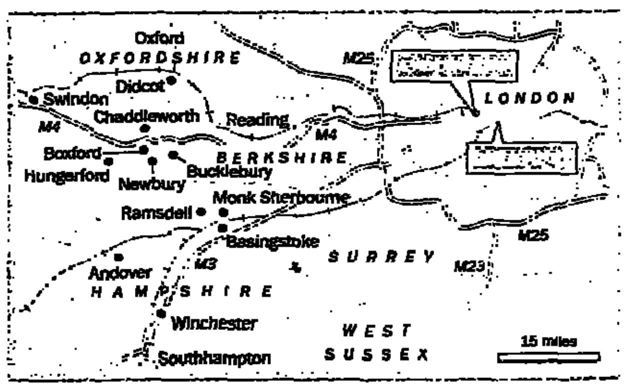
STARRING IN BERKSHIRE

LENNY HENRY and DAWN FRENCH live in a Queen Anne mansion near Reading with their five-year-old daughter. The six-bedroom property, with beautiful gardens, a swimming pool and tennis court, is said to be worth more than £1.5 million.

ROLF HARRIS lives in an L-shaped house at Bray, with his wife, Alwen, a sculptress. The split-level property, valued at more than £500,000, is on the banks of the Thames, and the large garden includes a series of pools fed by a small waterfall.

ULRIKA JONSSON, lives with her two-year-old son in a five-bedroom house at Cookham Dean. The property, in several acres of gardens, was brought for £500,000 earlier this year after she sold her cottage in the same village for £250,000.

MARKET COMMENT



THE M4 corridor extension is prime commuter territory, with good rail connections: Basingstoke to Waterloo takes about 45 minutes — ideal for City workers — while the West End is well served by the Oxford-Didcot-Paddington line and frequent fast links from the southwest and Wales via Swindon (an hour's journey to Paddington) and Reading (30 minutes).

As a result, the property market has been substantially shaped by London's buoyant conditions, as families tired of city life have sold up and headed west. But while selling in the area may be easy at present, buying is harder. Agents report a shortage of property, particularly in the most popular family home bracket. People are not putting houses up for sale because there is little to move to.

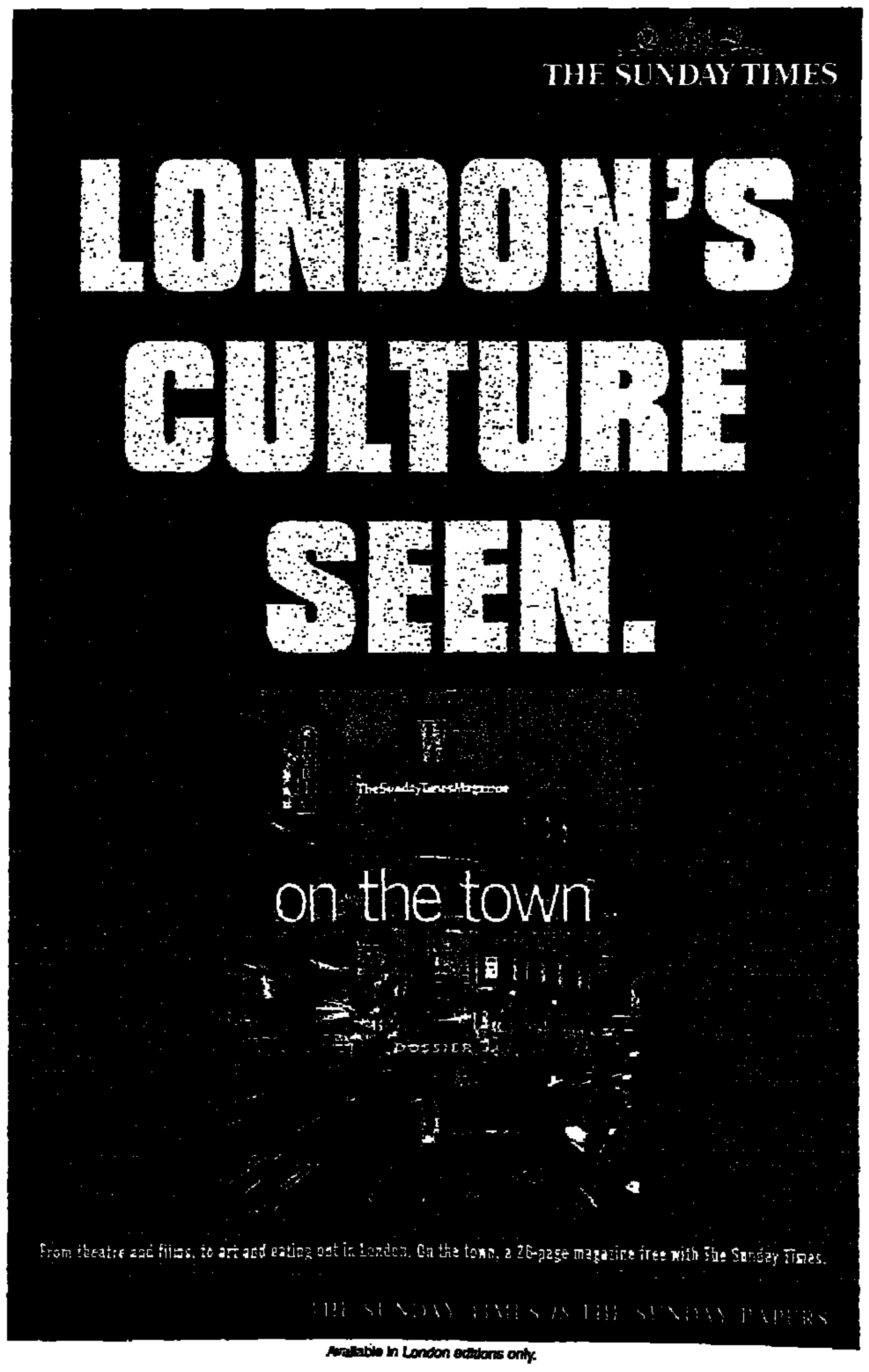
House-hunters are driven primarily by the combination of accessibility and the rural idyll, although as Richard Trustram Eve, of the agents Strutt & Parker in Newbury, Berkshire, says, the lack of supply means they are having to compromise: "People are settling for houses with something of a blight — motorway noise or less land than they wanted — which in a slow market would be relatively hard to sell." They are also likely to be up against 30 or 40 viewers and a handful of competing bidders for any good property. And they can expect to pay 15 to 20 per cent more than last year.

THE UNPREDICTABLITY of the market is demonstrated by the lack of agreement on guide-price bands between agents. Mr Trustram Eve quotes £200,000 to £275,000 for a three-bedroom cottage in a pretty village; Nick van Zeller, of Knight Frank in Hungerford, pitches the range at £250,000 to £350,000. For a good five-bedroom family home with an acre of land, you'll be looking at guide prices of £350,000 to £450,000 (Strutt & Parker) or £450,000 to £600,000 (Knight Frank).

At the upper end of the market, a six-bedroom Victorian house with five acres, a pool and tennis court would fetch £750,000 plus; the Georgian equivalent is likely to go for more than £1 million.

While unsympathetic developments have left some villages in the area less picturesque, there is an abundance of popular enclaves to choose from — assuming you can find anything to buy. North of Newbury (good for Swindon/Reading) lie villages such as Boxford, Chaddleworth and Bucklebury; nearer Basingstoke are Ramsdell and Monk Sherborne.

FAITH GLASGOW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هكذا من الاصل

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Homeowners are selling up and becoming millionaires overnight. **Tom Rowland** and **Rachel Kelly** report

The drawing room has gilt cornices, Corinthian columns and mahogany doors

The angel of divine profit

Highly desirable: the front of the house in Notting Hill

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Reggie Baxter in the house his mother bought for him in the 1950s for £800. Noël Coward's photo is on the piano

Is it possible for a quite pleasant but rather nondescript terrace house in Notting Hill — that deeply trendy corner of West London — really to be worth its asking price of £1 million, given that the building is nothing special and in need of modernisation?

It seems that it can, because one has just come on to the market in Chepstow Place, *while another late Victorian* semi in Westbourne Park Road, on the market for £895,000 with local agents Winkworth, is under offer at just under the magic million.

Notting Hill, a daring area for a City type to venture into a decade ago, has now been thoroughly gentrified and its property market looks to be right at the lucrative top of the cycle.

The process is creating a new class of elderly millionaires, for houses coming up for sale tend not to have been on the market in decades.

The one in Chepstow Place is owned by 79-year-old Reggie Baxter, a retired Lloyds insurance broker whose mother bought the house for him in the early 1950s for £800. So if *he gets the asking price, that* represents a leap in value of 1,183 per cent.

Over the years, he has spent rather more than the initial £800 on the interior, and the drawing room now has gilt cornicing, Corinthian columns and mahogany doors, making it far more opulent than the house would have originally warranted.

An autographed picture of Noël Coward dedicated to Mr Baxter stands on top of his Chinese lacquered Steinway grand piano, next to a stack of Ivor Novello scores.

Mr Baxter did rather well in insurance and became a theatrical "angel", putting money into a series of big musicals. Having lived with his housekeeper for many years, the two *now want to move to a* mansion flat that will be easier to maintain.

Apart from the grand room at the front, much of the rest of the house needs updating, including a kitchen extension at the back. Others in the row have turned this area into a family room, knocking out the back wall and replacing it with picture windows, says Andrew Phillips from Hamptons, which is selling the house.

The house is on three floors with no basement, but the back extension gives it about the same floor area as a four-storey period terrace house.

The row of houses was built in 1855 by John Treadaway, a Paddington Green tailor who had prospered by selling clothing to the navvies employed on the Great Western Railway. It can hardly have been a good investment at the time. A crop of speculators lost their shirts attempting to develop the old Hippodrome racecourse that stood on a 200-acre site on top of Notting Hill in the late 1830s.

The shells of hundreds of part-finished houses stood rotting during the 1850s and 1860s, and the crash of Overend and Gurney's Bank in 1866 dealt a crushing blow to the area. It did not help that to the west lay the notorious Piggeries and Potteries, grim slums surrounded by brick fields and pigsties. In 1849, it was infested with cholera.

To make matters worse, to the east lies Bayswater, by the turn of the century so out of fashion that its mere mention sent smart ladies into a swoon.

Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, first performed in 1895, was not alone in her abhorrence of the place.

Lloyd Sanders, the architectural historian, despaired in 1910 at "the rigid and undeviating respectability of Bayswater". He was surprised that "so eminently Bayswatery a neighbourhood as that of Pembridge Square and Chepstow Place should be found in the parish of Kensington."

Bayswarery or not, Chepstow Place, along with the rest of Notting Hill, is in fashion — but only time will tell if its soaring house prices will prove vulnerable to the latest stock market fall.

SMART MOVERS

● The Marquess of Tavistock *is letting the Dower* House, a seven-bedroomed house in seven acres, with a swimming pool, at Woburn Abbey, and once home to the late 12th Duke of Bedford. It is to let, at £4,000 a month, through the agents Bidwells, acting for the trustees of the Bedford Estate.

Marquess of Tavistock

● Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, heir to Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, and his fiancée, Lily Maltese, are house-hunting in Notting Hill, West London. They are living in his sister's flat on the top floors of a terraced Vic*torian house in* Westbourne Grove.

Henry Brocklehurst

● A country house designed by Sir Basil Spence, one mile west of the village of Kippen in Stirlingshire, is on the market for £1.2 million. Gribloch House was designed in 1938 by Sir Basil, one of Britain's best known 20th-century architects.

RACHEL KELLY

OXFORDSHIRE – Blackthorn Price Guide: £245,000
A chapel conversion of 17th Century origin offering family accommodation and potential for improvement. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, breakfast room, utility room and garden.
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522

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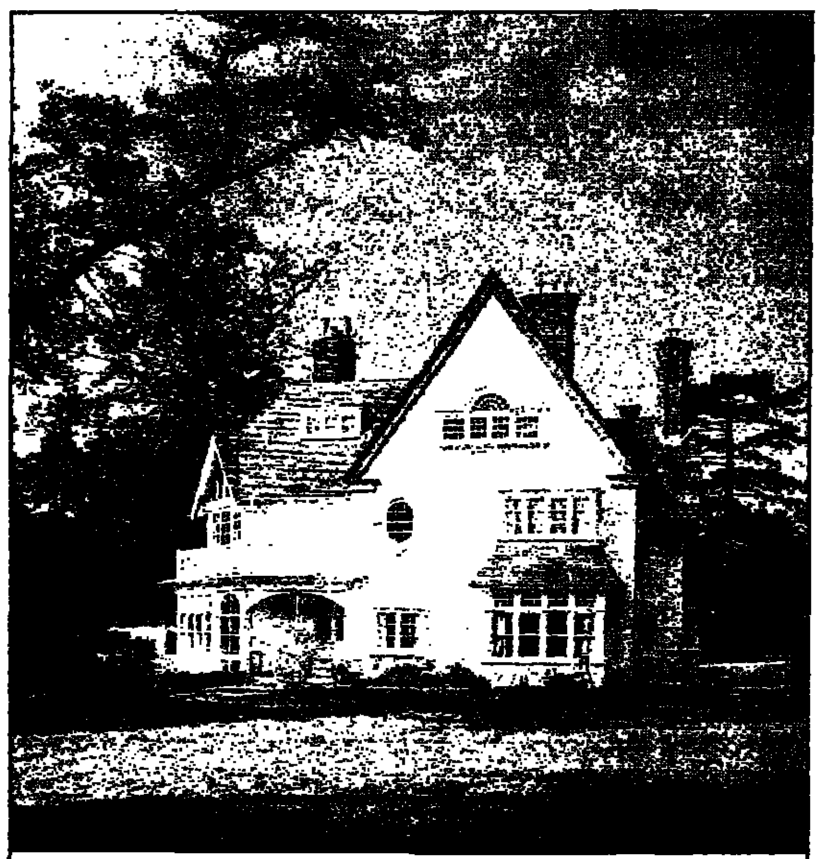
SURREY – Oxshott Price Guide: £1,500,000
The major part of a Grade II Jacobean style mansion, with a baronial interior. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 shower rooms, 3 reception rooms including full height galleried dining hall, gymnasium and landscaped garden with heated swimming pool.
HEAD OFFICE: 0171 493 4106 WIMBLEDON OFFICE: 0181 944 7172

HAMPSHIRE – Ramsdell Price Guide: £190,000 for the whole
A pair of cottages in need of complete refurbishment with about 0.30 ha (0.75 acres) on the edge of the village. Each has: 3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen and hall
NEWBURY OFFICE: 01635 523225



OXFORDSHIRE – Boars Hill
A distinguished Edwardian house of architectural interest in over 0.47 ha (1 acre) of grounds. 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, dressing room, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, sun room, utility room, cloakroom, cellarage and 2 double garages.
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COLEFORD ROAD, SW18. Freehold £289,500
A lovely cottage in the popular 'Tonsleys', close to the rail station and with a beautiful secluded garden. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms and kitchen.
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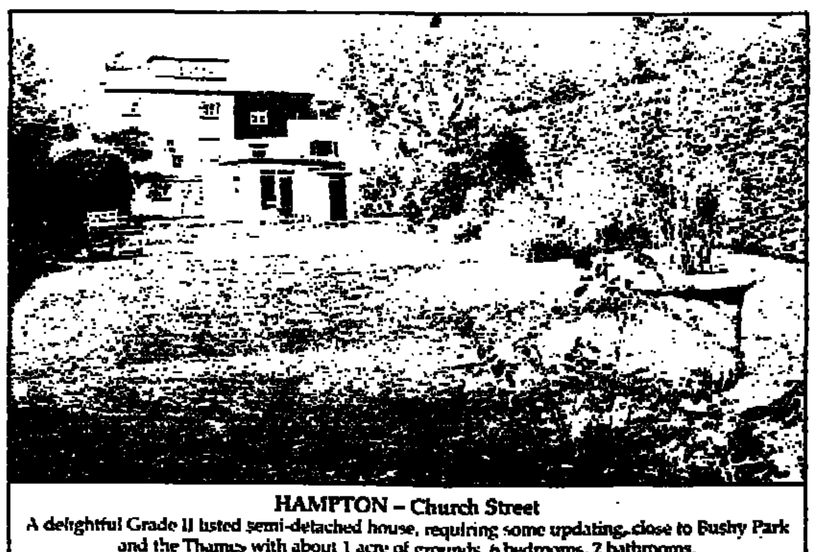
LANSDOWNE ROAD, W11. Freehold Share £850,000
A beautifully decorated 1st floor flat with an attractive outlook over communal gardens from its west facing roof terrace. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, caretaker and secure off-street parking.
KENSINGTON OFFICE: 0171 727 0705



HAMPTON – Church Street
A delightful Grade II listed semi-detached house, requiring some updating, close to Bushy Park and the Thames with about 1 acre of grounds. 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, study, garden room, utility room, cellar, parking and garaging
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CAMBRIDGE MANSIONS, SW11. Lease to 2102 £174,500
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HEAD OFFICE: 26 CURZON STREET, LONDON W1Y 8LD. 0171-493 4106. FAX: 0171-629 6071. email: headoffice@johndwood.co.uk Internet: http://www.johndwood.co.uk
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01962 842742

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OXFORD
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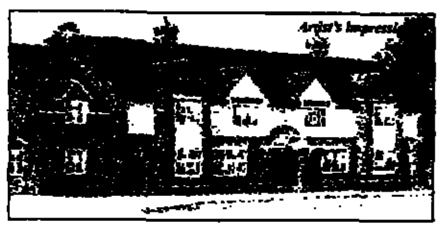

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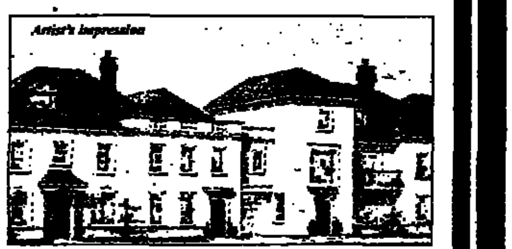

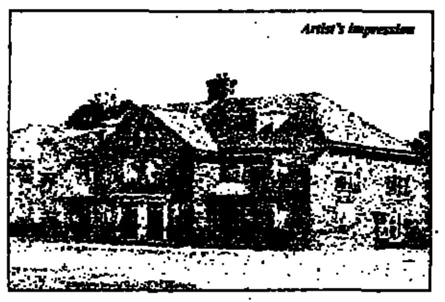

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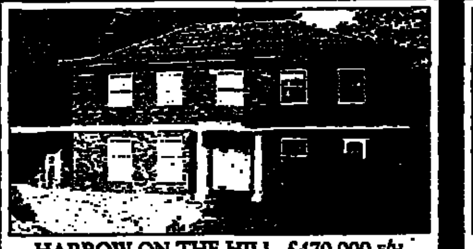

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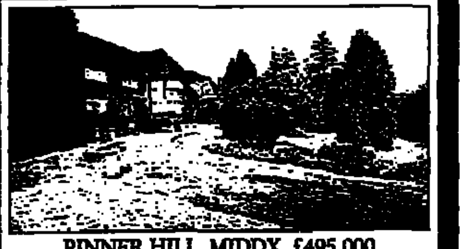

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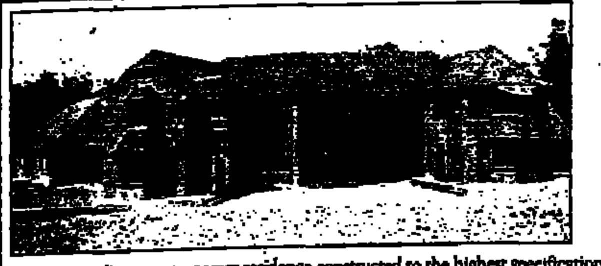

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Nature brought to book

Stephen Anderton meets an author who always puts his faith in nature

Only occasionally do you find a great gardener who is as adept at putting gardening into words as he is at actually doing it. Such a man is Geoffrey Dutton, a molecular biologist and poet, who has spent the past 40 years building up a garden out of nine acres halfway up a moor in the southern Highlands of Scotland.

Mr Dutton's garden is an extraordinary mixture of wildness and formality. There it sits, blasted by every wind that blows, on a moraine of boulders, with an average of 80 days of snow a year.

And yet, although the garden uses only plants which are happy here, and works with the minimum of labour, it is still, at heart, a formal garden. Not Classical; there is no symmetry, no civilised grace. But it *is* a formal wild garden or, in Mr Dutton's view, a "marginal garden".

The site is corrugated by a deep, rocky burn. Over it is worked a repeating pattern of miniature grassy glades, linked by winding paths. The sheltering trees, established with difficulty over the past 40 years, give enclosure higher up. Below them, Japanese-looking baffles of clipped beech, hemlock and other evergreens keep the wind out, allowing the cultivation of the more delicate rhododendrons, such as *R. vaseyi*, *souliei* and *oreotrephes*.

At the edges of the garden, Mr Dutton has resisted the temptation to plant exotic adornments at the expense of native vegetation. He gardens by adjusting the spaces, through his treatment of the existing vegetation — thinning, pruning, opening a glade here, or felling a tree there, transplanting a few ferns, or splitting the wood anemones. He plays with light and shade, horizontal and vertical, mass and void.

There is no attempt to be politically correct. He uses chemicals and weedkillers, moderately and sensibly. He wages war on rabbits. He puts up barbed fences against deer. He waters from the burn in summer, and necessarily so: summer drought is a desperate problem.

On the other hand, this kind of gardening treats nature kindly. It employs large numbers of native plants such as birch and hazel, and red squirrels "ruck-chuck" away in the branches of the Scots pines he planted 30 years ago.

Most of Mr Dutton's plants are grown from seed, bought or given to him by other gardeners. He has almost no need of nurseries, never mind garden centres. "I am terrified of buying rhododendrons, in case I bring in rhododendron mildew," he says.

All of this is recorded in his book *Some Branch Against The Sky: the Practice and Principles of Marginal Gardening*. But what can he write that will be useful to a suburban, or even urban, gardener?

"It is perfectly possible to adapt this approach to any garden," he says. "To depart as little as possible from a garden's surroundings means minimal upkeep, too." An urban garden, then, would be more formal than one sited on the Welsh moors." He can teach us all to enjoy the garden, to see it properly as a living process.

And yet he does not enjoy the idea of gardening for show, insisting rather that gardening should be for the pleasure of those who make the garden, and in its use.

Here is a man who has taken time to stop and observe all that goes on in a garden. Pleasure for him is in watching the life of the garden unfold, in seeing plants develop their particular lives and characters, in the battles between predatory animals and plants, between the cruel seasons and plants, and between one plant and another.

● Some Branch Against the Sky: the Practice and Principles of Marginal Gardening, *by Geoffrey Dutton, is published this month by David and Charles, £16.99. To order a copy at the discounted price of £14.99 (inc p&p in UK) call the credit card hotline, 01626 334 555, and quote code G019.*

MARIE O'HARA

Geoffrey Dutton in his element: nine weatherbeaten acres in the Scottish Highlands, testament to his own vision

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q We were given a chest-high evergreen shrub from a neighbouring garden, where it had grown in *dryish soil by the* house wall for 25 years. The new leaves are bronzy-red and the whole effect is fragile and ferny. It has white flowers but never sets any seed. What might it be? — Mrs J. Dobinson, London SE9.

A Your photograph shows that it is the "sacred bamboo" *Nandina domestica*, a native of China but introduced from Japan in 1804. It has delicately divided compound leaves, bronzed in spring and with red tints in autumn, and upright, bamboo-like stems. But it is not a bamboo, and not even in the grass family: it is a sophisticated relative of berberis. When it produces its purplish red berries, a thing it does none too willingly in Britain, the *relationship* is *more* believable. It is a hardy, slow growing plant, and needs plenty of sun and shelter from the wind to do well.

Q I have a japonica which fruits well. Are the fruits edible, and how should they be used? — Mrs B. Robbens, Stanmore, Middlesex.

A The fruits of japonica, the flowering quince *Chaenomeles japonica*, are certainly edible. They are nowhere near as big as the true quince, *Cydonia oblonga*, but you can do the same sort of things with them, such as putting slices into an apple pie; the flavour is astringent. I once made wine with them. The flavour was excellent, in a sweet-and-sour sort of way.

Q What can I do about the fairy rings on my lawns? I have tried standard treatments, including *digging and spraying with* Armillatox, to no effect. I read an old Scottish rhyme, saying: "And he wha cleans the fairy ring / An easy death shall dee." What should I do? — Mrs J. Dobson, Nottingham.

A Removal is difficult. If you have tried all the usual methods with no success, waste no more time or energy *on them. There are* better things to do. The more relaxed you are about your lawn, the less the rings will "show". They are inevitably more pronounced on an immaculate short sward but a little nitrogen might *hide* your green ring in an equally green lawn. A little live-and-let-live would do no harm — and ignore death threats.

Q The plants on my windowsill are visited by small black flies, whose maggots live under the soil. I have not noticed much damage, but the flies are a nuisance. What are they, and how do I deal with the maggots? — A.J. Boulton, Norwich.

A There are three choices for treatment: if they are doing no harm, ignore them; if they are doing harm, use the biological control, a predatory mite called *Hypoaspis miles*; or spray the soil with permethrin.

● *Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend*, The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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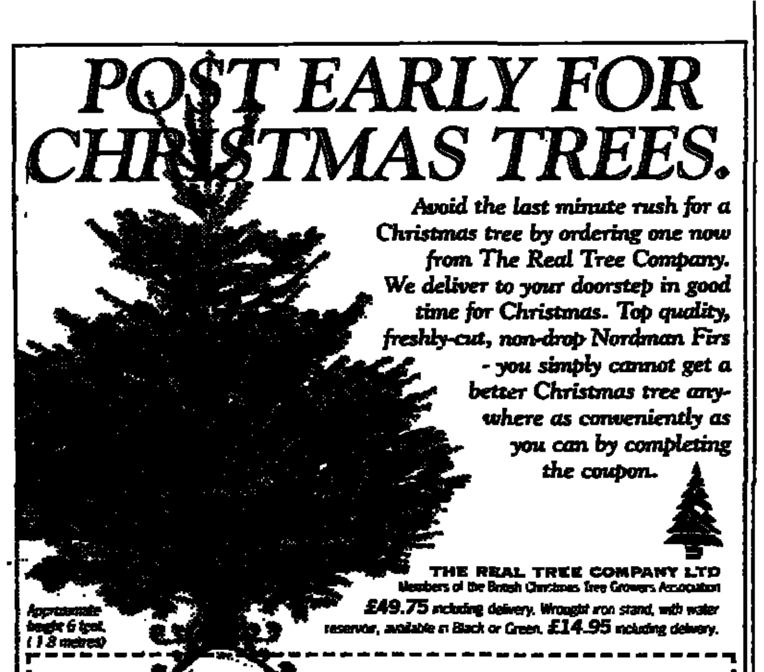

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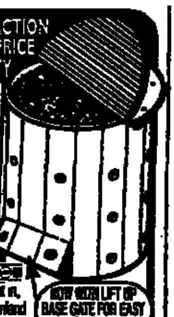

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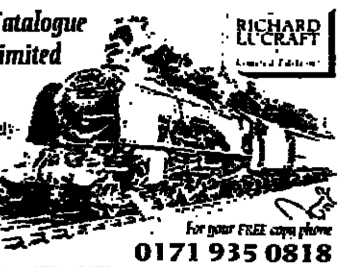

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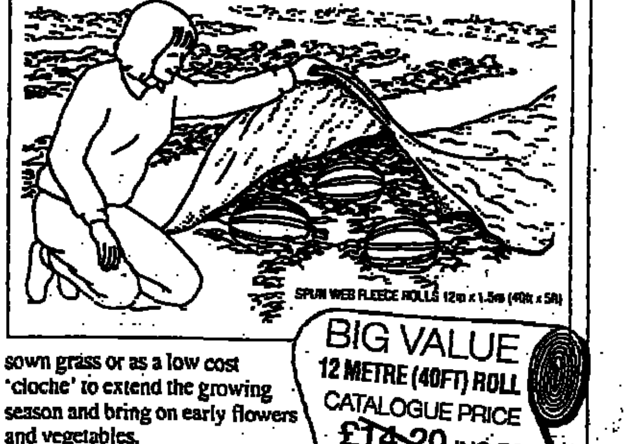

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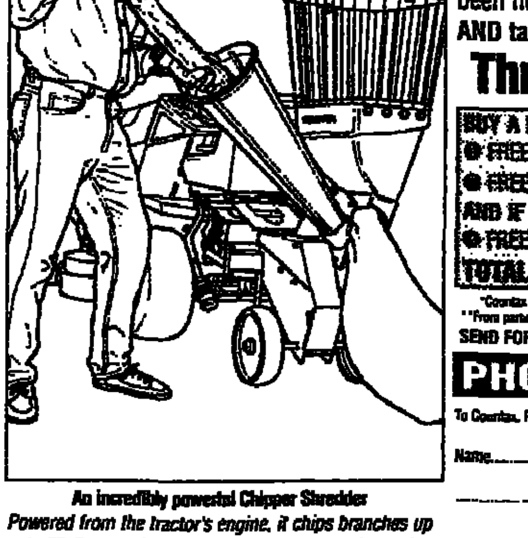

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The novelist tells **Jane Owen** how much she enjoys her own sanctuary, laid out by Capability Brown

Romance blooms all year round

GILL ALLEN

Dame Barbara Cartland in the grounds of her Hertfordshire home, 18 miles from London, with her beloved Twi Twi. "I can't write a book every day and dig in the garden"

ME AND MY GARDEN: DAME BARBARA CARTLAND

It is difficult to imagine two authors with less in common than Beatrix Potter and Dame Barbara Cartland but Dame Barbara's Hertfordshire home is where the budding naturalist and children's author spent holidays with her grandparents.

"The place I love best in the world . . ." Beatrix Potter wrote of the garden to her imaginary friend, Esther ". . . the sweet balmy air where I have been so happy as a child . . . the all-pervading smell of new mown hay, the windy north front on its terrace, with oaks moaning and swaying on winter nights. Here, also, almost concealed by Lignum vitae, is an *artificial ruin or grotto, one of the* efforts of Capability Brown who planted the cedars and laid out the grounds in 1800."

The author goes on to praise Brown's tree groupings in the park and lament that her grandfather's plantings of Wellingtonias, hollies and pines did not do so well. But one or two remain along with the cedars, rhododendrons, a fine tulip tree and the grotto which Dame Barbara has restored.

Today the gardens are romantically overgrown. Pink geraniums *around the house mingle with* weeds and the three-acre walled vegetable gardens have given up the weed battle apart from a small area where onions, beans, raspberries, potatoes and other basics are grown for the house. There is no longer a cutting garden but, at the far end of one of the walls is a door which has seen better days — "where the fat little rabbit couldn't get *under"* as *Dame Barbara puts* it. It is not Peter Rabbit's door but it is pleasing to think of the battered door and the potting shed (now a kennel) as some inspiration for Mr McGregor's garden.

In front of the house views stretch away over broadleaf woodland and, although we are only 18 miles from central London, there isn't another house in sight. To the right are nut walks and ahead lead alleys *of shrubs and small trees down to* an overgrown leg o'mutton pond.

Dame Barbara is in pink livery. At 96 years old her usual vigour is muted by the recent death of her Pekinese Mai Mai, now buried in the pets' graveyard at the front of the house. His replacement, Twi Twi, is chewing my notebook. I have persuaded him this is a better bet than my tape recorder.

Dame Barbara says: "I *am not* a gardener because I do not have time but my mother was a good gardener. I can't write a book every day and *dig* in the garden but I love the garden. I am always moving round it, usually with the dogs. And we have lunch parties outside."

Extravagant displays of plastic flowers obscure views across the valley to the north and rhododen*drons to the east.*

"When Elizabeth I was more or less a prisoner at Hatfield before she was made Queen she rode over here and planted an oak tree and it is very lucky," says Dame Barbara.

Before my interview I was sent three loose-bound folders in deep pink parchment covers tied *with pink ribbon. One is 33 pages* of Dame Barbara's "Firsts" from her first proposal of marriage ("nine days after I left school") through a *baffling story* about gliders and the Germans to her 663 published books; the second describes how she wants to be remembered when she dies and the third is about her latest health pill enthusiasm, Flame, which Dame Barbara, as Head of the National Association *for Health, swears by as* a *wrinkle* remover. "I have no lines on my body, which is amazing for someone my age. Even my appendix scar has gone. What it does is replace the calcium one looses as one gets older. All the men I have given it to say it is the best thing they have ever had."

It is the easiest thing in the world to poke fun at someone who, aged 96, habitually landscapes herself in pink and churns out bodice rippers in which sex does not exist but you can't deny her writing energy, nor *her fondness for her garden."I am* inspired by all the beautiful things around me when I write," she says. Dame Barbara's early memories, as a child growing up near Pershore, Worcestershire, are of a pergola of roses, a vegetable garden and three acres of plums. It was in that garden that she saw her first ghost. "I don't know who it was."

At Pershore the young Barbara *used to help her parents weeding* and digging, and she tended her own small garden. "I planted roses and everything that had bright colours — I was about 12. And then I picked the flowers from my garden for my mother. We used to have flowers everywhere. That is why I love flowers now.

"When I had my birthday the other day I couldn't move for flowers. My favourite are white lilies. They are frightfully expensive." She sails out of the drawing room, Twi Twi and I in her wake, *climbs two long flights of stairs* without pause or breathlessness and shows me her bedroom which is filled with the scent of lilies. A swoon away from her four-poster with a cherub on top, a vast bouquet of blood red Amaryllis overwhelms a table.

Dame Barbara's sons, Ian and Glen Hamilton McCorquodale, who live on the estate, arrive for *tea. Ian has cleared a vast area of* walks, and has planted a number of leylandii around the swimming pool at his home.

We are summoned to the dining room for tea (minute cucumber sandwiches, tiny meringues sealed together with cream, heart-shaped shortbreads joined by jam which are crumbled into a bowl for Twi Twi). Dame Barbara recalls another historical link her house can claim: "Back to Basics was born here in this dining room. John Major came to lunch. He was *frightfully sweet. I said 'We must* get back to romance' and he said 'yes, back to basics'."

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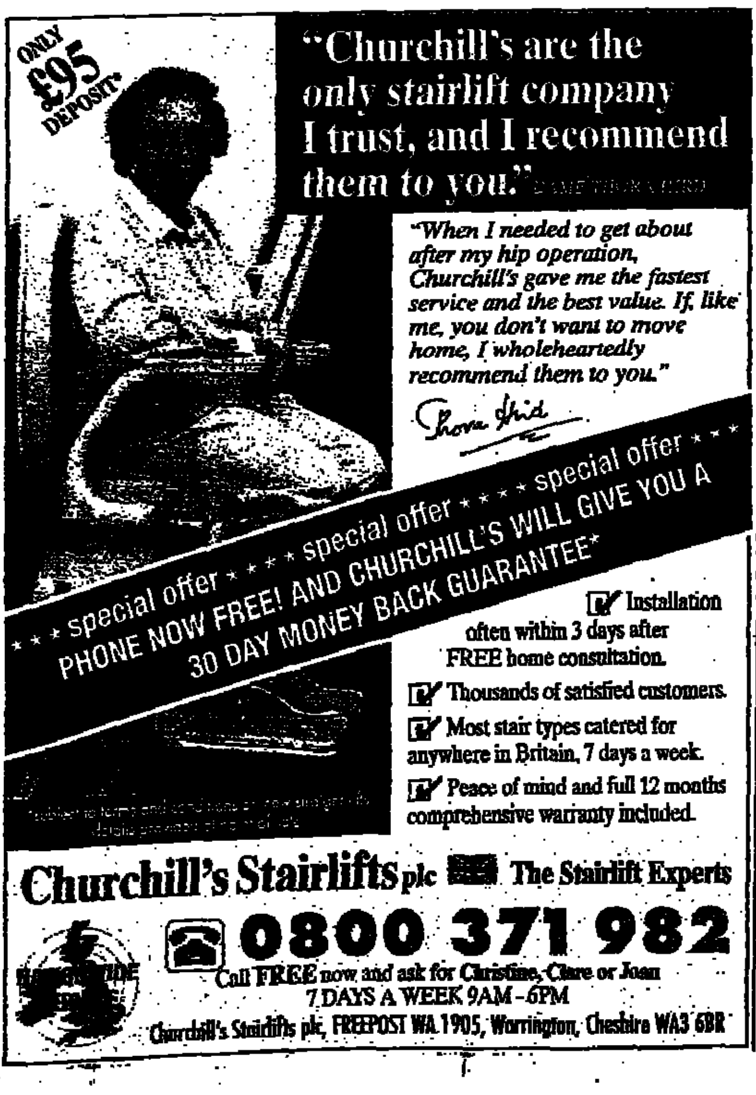

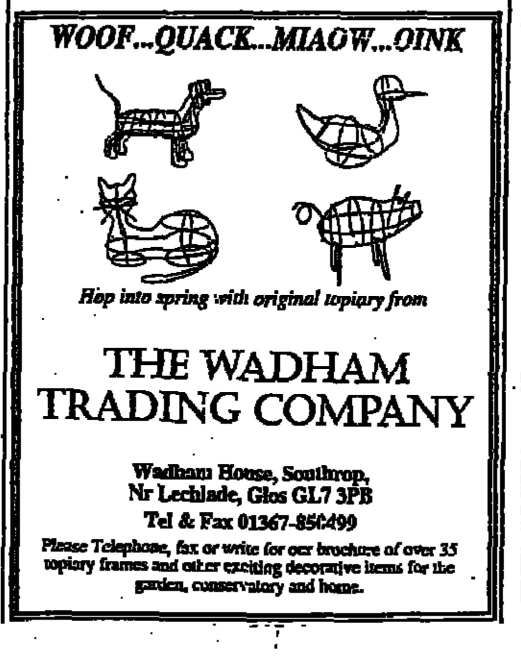

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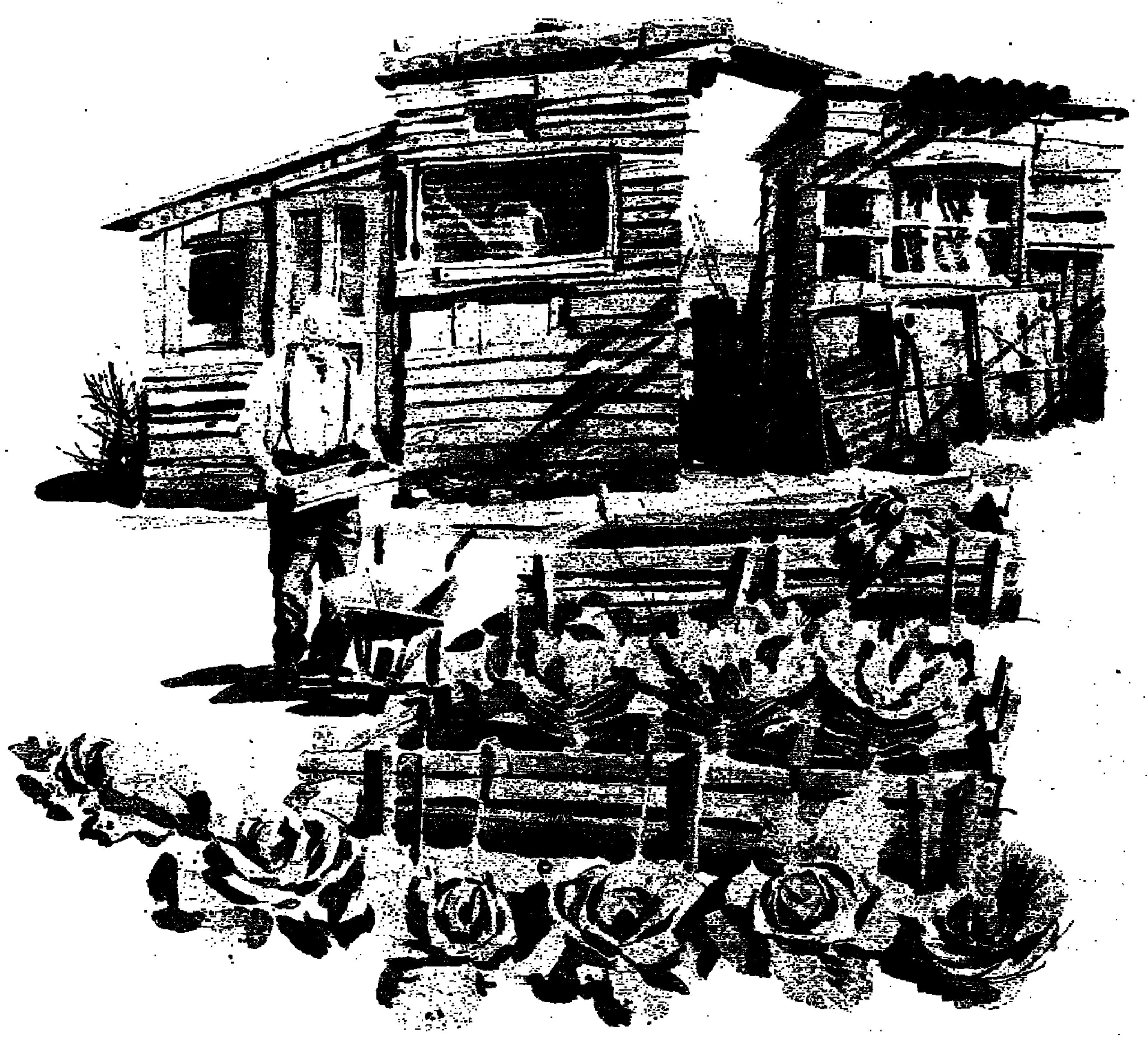
Allotment holders dig in their heels

Gardeners are determined not to give up their plots for development, says **Pip Palmer**



MATTHEW COOK

Allotment holders tend not to be a militant bunch to be compared with Swampy and his protesters, but this could change as the pressure for building land increases and local authorities are compelled to find sites for over four million new homes the Government predicts we will need by 2016.

In the 19th century, the provision of allotments was an important issue: the enclosure of common land had deprived many of the means of subsistence, and as urban populations grew so, too, did a vociferous demand for plots of land to cultivate. By the end of the century, responsibility for *providing allotments had* become a political hot potato: the 1908 Small Holdings and Allotments Act put it squarely in the lap of local councils.

Today, of the 50,000 acres *cultivated as allotments*, 89 per cent are owned by parish or district councils, and what cheaper or easier option could there be for councils in need of building land than to reclaim these sites for development?

The only problem is that 75 per cent of the land has statutory protection under the Allotments Act of 1925, which states: "The local authority shall not sell, appropriate, use or dispose of the land for any purpose other than use for allotments, without the consent of the Secretary of State for the Environment."

The "get out" for local authorities is to gain Government consent for a change of *use on the site, offer allotment* holders alternative plots that have no statutory protection and, if more land is required, the second site can be reclaimed without Government approval or further need to replace it.

Allotments rarely make the headlines. The closest they've come was the recent "pitchfork rebellion" against the Prince of Wales, or, more accurately, his agents in the Duchy of Cornwall, who proposed taking 28 plots to build homes. After much *lobbying* of councillors and a threat to "physically oppose the plan", the eviction order was quashed.

Less high-profile is the case *of the Gosforth Allotments* Association in Newcastle, where a judgment in favour of the gardeners keeping their land has been overturned. The council wants to sell the land for development and, in return, is offering an inferior non-statutory site with a limited seven-year lease.

In North Sheen, southwest London, where, as on most allotments, there is a long waiting *list* for plots, the replacement site is non-statutory. The council insists that there is a need for extra school places. Yet in the past 20 years *it has closed five schools and* sold the land for development.

With compensation to each dispossessed plot-holder averaging £100, councils, it seems, are able to juggle their assets, selling off prime sites and replacing them with allotment land at minimal cost and with little regard for legislation.

In 1978, statutory acreage in England stood at *26,739. In 1997, it is down* to 18,102. At this rate England, at the end of the 21st century, could be a country where only the rich or the *fortunate have access to land* or the wherewithal to grow their own food.

At the Manor Road allotments in North Sheen there is a cautious feeling of relief. The gardeners feel that their hard-fought campaign of letter writing and lobbying of MPs has paid off, though many are digging their heels in for renewed attempts by the council to access the land.

Mike Bird, one of the allotment holders, says: "There is the wildlife to consider as well. There are five birds of prey living there, as well as hedge*hogs and foxes. They've got to* live somewhere."

They may be unlikely eco-warriors but if local authorities are not ready to defend them, allotments holders are ready to take action.

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH

ROSEMARY VEREY's magnificent garden at Barnsley, Gloucestershire, is also home to the garden furniture business run by her son Charles. In an autumn sale, which ends on December 6, he is offering up to 22 per cent off metal furniture, 15 per cent off most teak. The delivery prices vary.
Barnsley House, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 5EE (01285 740561).

PLANT OF THE MONTH

IRIS UNGUICULARIS 'Mary Barnard': once known as stylosa, the deep-blue flowers, about 6cm *across and 18cm high, light* up the garden at this flowerless time of year. Available next September from Avon Bulbs, Burnt House Farm, Mid *Lambrook, South* Petherton, Somerset TA13 5HE (01460 242177).

- Plant fruit trees now, to give maximum time to establish an effective root system before next spring. A plastic bottle, *with its* bottom cut off, can be set among the roots at planting time, with its neck a couple of inches above ground level. This will *allow easier watering in* the first year or two.
- Evergreens and conifers planted last month should be checked for wind rock, and firmed in again after strong winds, which can dry the plants out very quickly.
- Pot up from the garden a few double or coloured primroses for Christmas display, and put them in a cold greenhouse. *Potted* hydrangeas, plunged in the garden over summer, should be brought indoors once they have shed *their leaves, but kept* cold and on the dry side for a little longer.
- Complete the planting of tulips this month.

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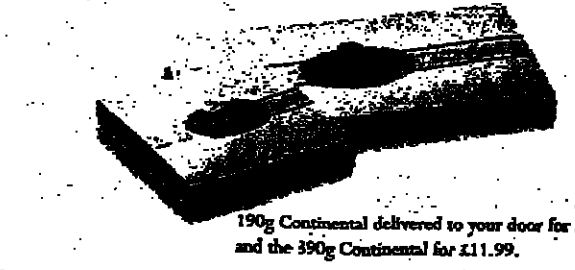

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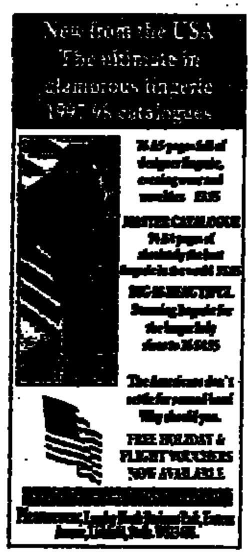

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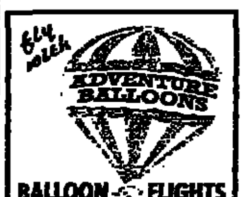

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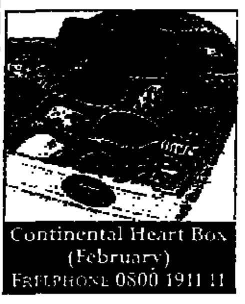

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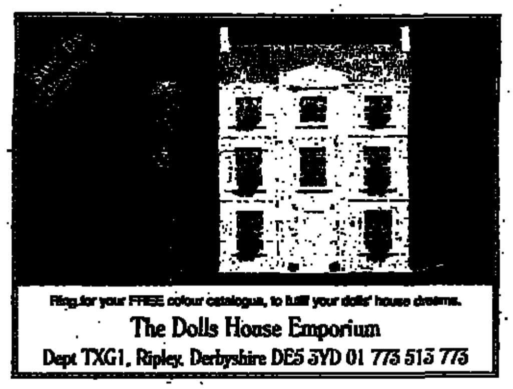

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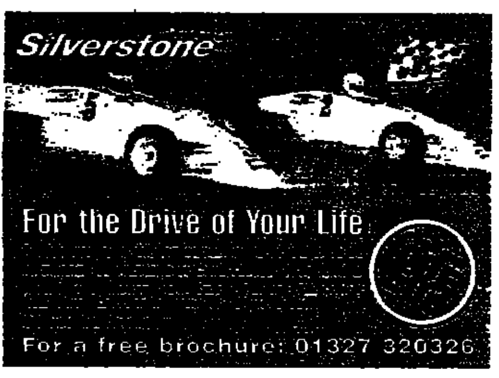

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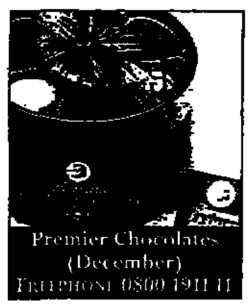

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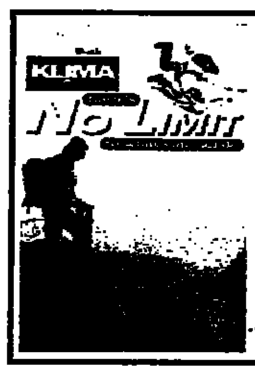

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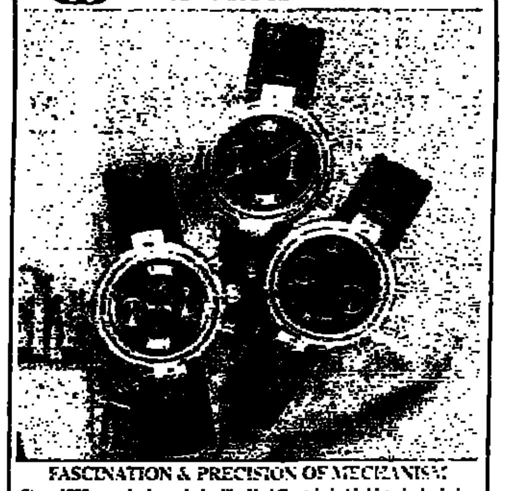

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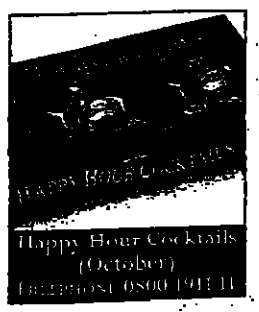

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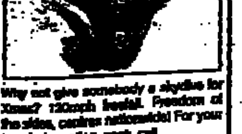

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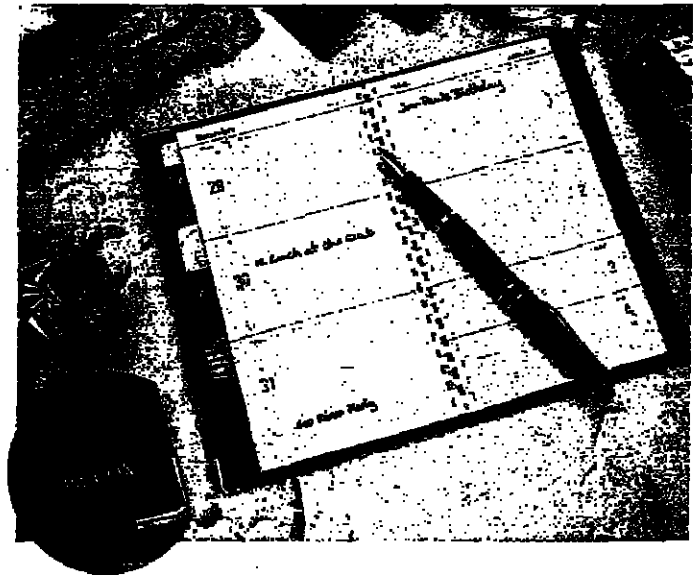

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Bitter feuding has broken out among the hunters of one of the world's most costly delicacies. **Dee McQuillan** reports

The truffle dogs of war

GAMMA

Eyes down for treasure: a hunter and his dog search for white truffles near Alba in northwest Italy

Dogs are being poisoned in Italy and kidnapped in France, because of the rising price of truffles. The cost of this delicacy, favoured by French and Italian cooks, has climbed so sharply that rival gatherers in the damp forests where the fungus grows are resorting to sabotage.

The latest incident involved more than 20 trained truffle-hunting dogs in Perugia, Italy, being found poisoned by strychnine and weedkiller last week.

The result of the price hikes nearer home is that one of London's most fashionable Italian restaurants, the River Café, may have to take truffles off the menu.

Franco Taruschio, who introduced truffles to discerning diners at the Walnut Tree Inn, near Abergavenny on the Welsh border, says: "Good truffle dogs are valuable creatures. They have to be conditioned from the earliest age to respond to the smell of the fungi, which is done by training them with truffle oil or the tiniest scrap of real truffle, and feeding them only once they've succeeded in following the scent."

Dogs are now favoured rather than pigs for truffle hunting — except, perhaps, in the Périgord region of France, where the odd swine may be wheeled out for tourist photographs — because they move through the woods more quickly.

"Truffle hunters choose mongrels because these are often the most intelligent, and are usually crosses with some gundog blood," Mr Taruschio says.

"I had an outing with a hunting dog called Diana last year and she knew exactly what she was doing. Happily, we found my first black Umbrian truffle."

People can pick up the scent, too, but a dog has a keener sense of smell and will stop directly over the truffle, which is then carefully unearthed with a minimun of disturbance to the tree roots and to the truffle's parent organism, the mycelium. Accurate digging protects the hugely lucrative source for years to come.

The Umbrian poisonings are not only depressing for dog lovers, but leave food lovers puzzled as well. The local truffles are black, (see fact box). The rare, ultra-expensive white truffle, such as those from Alba, in Piedmont, can sell for as much as £2,500 for a kilo. Black truffles are selling at about £550 a kilo after a dry summer, which has restricted the growth. Michel Bourdin, the chef at the Connaught Hotel in London, keeps his "black diamonds" in a fortified fridge.

The true white truffle — the propogation of which still defeats scientists — is one of the world's leading luxury foods, beating the finest saffron from La Mancha and caviare from the threatened Beluga species of sturgeon, both of which cost about £1,500 a [illegible] the white truffle that has been getting all the good press recently, partly because expensive Italian food is fashionable, and partly because of its complex, garney smell.

"The white truffle is certainly superior to all the rest," Mr Taruschio says. "The smell is gorgeous. You can't really say more; it has to be experienced."

Rose Gray, co-owner of the River Café, once dubbed the best Italian restaurant in Europe, says: "There is nothing like the scent of a white truffle. It is so penetrating that everyone notices as soon as the airtight transport boxes are brought into the restaurant. It reminds one of autumn mornings in northern Italy — but it's never better than when you are the lucky one sitting down to lovely, hot tagliarini with flakes of fresh truffle."

Her sophisticated customers may not be so lucky in the future. "This year the prices are the highest I have ever known, and it looks as if we will not be able to put truffle on at the menu," she says. Truffles need to be cleaned and trimmed, which at current prices could push a plate of pasta at the River Café to more than £30.

As we spoke, Ms Gray was just leaving for Alba, but has little hope of bringing back top-quality truffles at a tolerable price.

"That the dogs are being poisoned in Umbria does not completely surprise me; I've sensed this year that there is something different in the market," she says.

This "something different" has involved approaches from suspicious-looking sellers, while the River Café's established Italian supplier had still to be offered any decent white truffles.

Since the Italian government put a swingeing luxury tax on truffles a few years back, many truffle transactions have been clandestine. The sections of Italian forests where they grow are now under as much surveillance as the most strictly policed shooting or fishing rights.

Invevitably, when the price of white truffle reaches such exorbitant highs, shady traders will try to take a share of the market.

Maybe the chef and restaurater Alastair Little was only half joking when he once said that the truffles business was taking on all the trappings of drug dealing.

TREASURED TUBER: THE FACTS

TRUFFLES are a form of fungus growing underground on the roots of particular trees. The scent attracts animals to dig them up and spread the spores. The strength of the smell varies with the season and location.

■ *Tuber magnatum* is the white truffle — actually, a dirty beige, potato-like thing distinguished by its powerful odour. It seems to grow only in Langhe in Piedmont and the Marche Apennines, where it has been found around the roots of oak, hazel, poplar and beech trees. The growing season is from October to January.

White truffles will be at their peak for only seven days, some say four. They are used raw and are at their best with something plain, such as pasta or eggs.

■ *Tuber melanosporum* is the true black truffle and grows on the roots of oak trees in Périgord and Provence in France, and Marche and Umbria in Italy, and can now be cultivated. It matures between November and March. The smell is much less extreme than that of a white truffle — perhaps meaty, certainly savoury — and not as adversely effected by preserving. Black truffles are not used raw. Strips or diamonds of black truffle are a garnish or final flavouring for many classic French dishes.

■ *Tuber aestivum* is the summer truffle, with a knobbly dark skin and a beige centre. It grows in Britain by beech or oak trees, between June and November. Its flavour is weak compared with *T. melanosporum* and *T. magnatum*. Treat it as free food, like mushrooms, rather than a buried treasure.

■ *Buying:* some delicatessens sell preserved black truffles, truffle oils or even fresh black truffles in season, but few can now afford to offer white truffles. One source is the shop Carluccio's at 28a Neal Street, London WC2 (0171-240 1487). Antonio Carluccio's Neal Street Restaurant (0171-836 8368) is next door.

A bargain dish of the truffle season is the omlette with white truffles for £8.50 at the renowned Walnut Tree Inn, Llandewi Skirrid, near Abergavenny, Gwent (01873 852797). Franco Taruschio, the owner, buys from his home area of Marche, then puts truffle on the menu at a loss — "otherwise I just could not persuade people to order".

The reward: white truffles are now more costly than caviare

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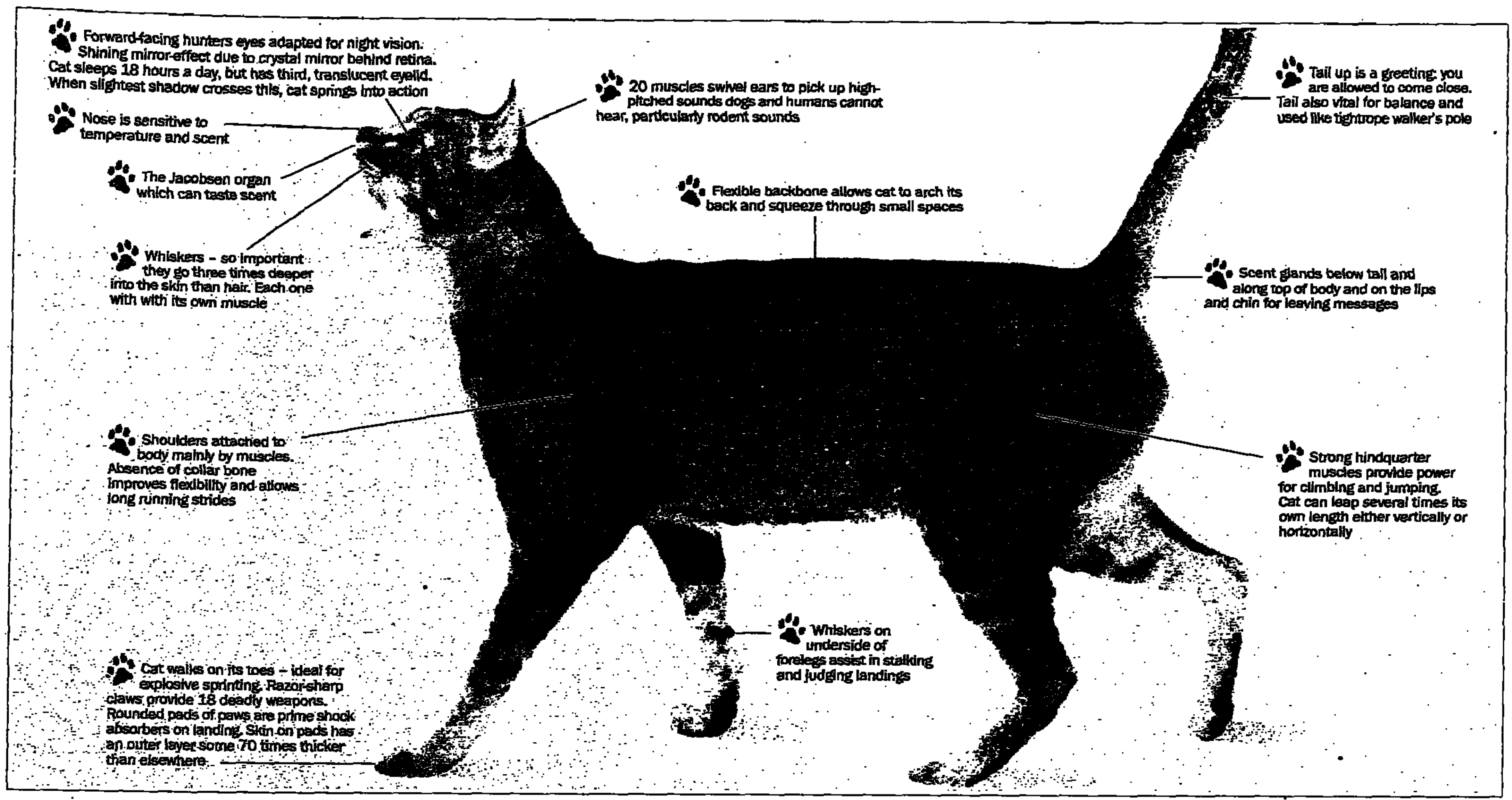
Cats don't just purr and eat mice – a new book shows them to be highly complex creatures, **Jack Crossley** writes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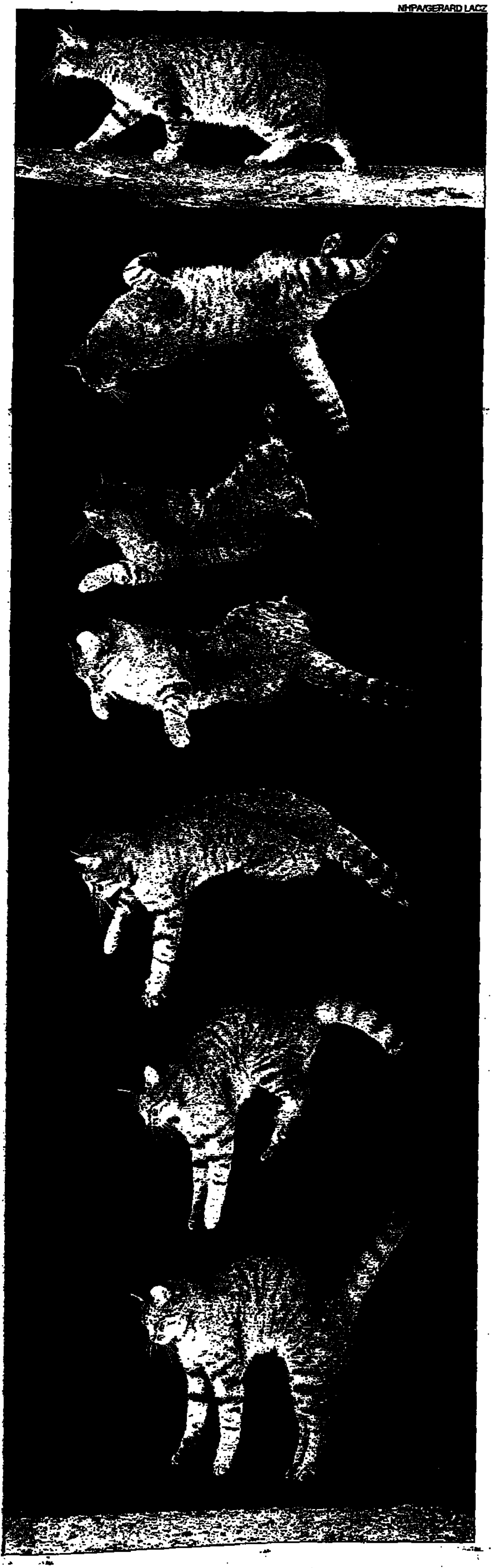

Little pet with the lion heart

Any one of the owners of Britain's seven million cats will tell you how wonderful felines are — especially theirs. But how many know how extraordinary cats really are? Did you know, for instance, they have whiskers on the underside of their front legs, to assist them in stalking and judging landings? Or exactly how a falling cat rotates its body in mid-air and lands on its feet? And why are they such superb climbers, but duffers at getting down again?

There's a new book out this week by international cat expert Roger Tabor explaining these and many other astonishing facts about the animal that purrs on your lap and yet remains one of the most efficient killers on Earth. The main ancestor of today's domestic puss is the African wild tabby, and all pet cats descend from it. Even posh pedigrees like the Siamese are genetically tabbies.

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And while we treat cats like people, they tend to treat us as if we were cats.

HOW DOES A CAT LAND?

THE cat's tail is an incredibly versatile organ. It is of great value in balancing and climbing, with the cat using itin much the same way as a tightrope walker uses a balancing bar. The tail also acts as a gyroscope counterweight when cats need to corner suddenly. Falling cats (left) have a remarkable ability to land on their feet by rotating their bodies in mid-air, and kittens develop this reflex action when only three weeks old. As a cat falls through the air, it first rotates its head and the front half of its body, until the head achieves the correct orientation. It then rotates the back half of its body, to land safely on its feet. The cat can do this because of its finely attuned sense of balance. It is this same exquisite sense that feeds the cat information on its posture when stalking and capturing prey. Awareness of posture is achieved by both its superb vision and canals in the inner ear.

- *Cat Behaviour — The Complete Feline Problem Solver* by Roger Tabor is published by David and Charles at £15.99. *Times* readers can buy the book for £13.99 from *The Times* Bookshop (0990 134459).

CAT CALLS

IT may be that the only "word" you ever hear from your cat is "miaow". But the emphasis and delivery of its miaows can cover a range of meanings. Desmond Morris has suggested that the vocal sounds of cats can be summarised in just six messages: I am angry, I want attention, I am in pain, I am frightened, I am inoffensive, I want you to come with me.

But Roger Tabor says there are many more shades of meaning depending on how and where these sounds are delivered. Certainly, when cats meet, they have more than one way of communicating with each other. They do it by posture and contact — and even just by staring. A cat will sometimes sit for hours, Sphinx-like, with paws tucked under, and just stare threateningly at another cat that has entered its territory.

Spraying is another way of protecting territory. A cat patrolling the perimeters of its range might spray up to 50 or 60 times in one hour, particularly if there is a territorial dispute going on.

The tail is the most talkative part of a feline. Unlike a dog, which wags its tail when it is happy, a wagging cat's tail signals aggressiveness. When the tail fluffs up in a dramatic way — like a bottle brush — it may be expressing a defensive or an aggressive mood. This is the cat sabre-rattling, making itself look bigger before committing itself to a fight. It doesn't mean that the cat isn't frightened, but it is signalling that it is going to be put up a damn good show.

To read the message, look at the ears. If they are down flat against the head, the cat is defending. If they are down, but with a twist so that the tips at the back of the ear can be seen from the front, the cat is an aggressor. These positions can seem very similar to us, but there is no ambiguity among cats. Looking at the eyes can be a better guide. The defending cat's eyes will be wide open with fear. The aggressor's will be narrowed tight.

And don't think that cats purr just to let us know how contented we have made them. They purr for themselves, sometimes when they feel threatened and sometimes simply to announce: "I am here." Purring also provides kittens with a contact call which keeps them together while the mother is away hunting — and, when suckling, they can do it without leaving the teat.

CAT SENSES

CATS have an extra organ that we do not have. The Jacobsen organ, named after the Danish doctor who discovered it 200 years ago, can taste scents and it lies below the nasal cavity, opening to the mouth behind the first incisors.

Thanks to the Jacobsen organ, a cat will know if its food has gone stale long before reaching its bowl. This "taste scenting" triggers a response that is quite dramatic in a big cat like a tiger (it exposes its huge teeth), but the response of a domestic cat is more subtle and most owners never notice it.

It is easier to notice how the cat's eyes contribute to its incredible efficiency as a night hunter. They are huge in relation to its skull size and provide brilliant vision with a sixth of the amount of light that we need. The pupil closes to a slit, instead of a point, giving it much finer control when stalking in the dark. The pupils of lions, which hunt mostly during the day, close to a point like ours.

Whiskers are not there just to tell a cat if an opening is wide enough for its body to pass through. They form a semi-circle around its face, growing above and at the side of the eyes as well as from the side of the face. They improve the cat's hunting ability by bringing information about wind movement, helping it to detect scent and interpret where scent come from.

EPA

A VET WRITES

Q ***My German shepherd dog, Sheba, is two years old and has had intermittent diarrhoea for three months. She's eating well, but losing weight.***

My vet says he will have to do a series of tests before he can treat her, and that this could cost £100 or more. A friend tells me she had a German shepherd with exactly the same problem, nearly 20 years ago. He was treated for pancreatic disease and given capsules containing trypsin, the digestive enzyme that comes from the pancreas.

My friend's dog recovered and went on for years. I would like to try this on Sheba before paying out for tests, but my vet doesn't agree. Why not?

A Pancreatic insufficiency is a common reason for chronic diarrhoea in dogs, and it can be an inherited problem in some German shepherds. But there are many other possible causes. A hit-or-miss approach — "Let's see if trypsin helps" — might have been justified 20 years ago, but now it's possible to make a definite diagnosis without "waiting and seeing", perhaps while things get worse.

Chronic diarrhoea occurs if food isn't digested properly, or when digested food is not absorbed in the dog's small intestine. Step one is to find out of it's a failure of digestion or absorption. Then, why. A deficiency of trypsin or bile acid prevents proper digestion. Damage to the intestinal lining reduces food absorption; it is perhaps caused by bacterial or parasitic infection, allergic reactions, tumours or normally harmless bacteria.

Laboratory tests can be costly, but with all these possible causes I'm sure it's right to investigate Sheba's problem first. The right treatment cannot be prescribed until there's a proper diagnosis.

Q **Why don't Manx cats have tails?**

A Nobody knows for certain, but it's supposed that the first cats to arrive on the Isle of Man were tailless emigrants from the Far East, who jumped ship in the 16th or 17th century. Their descendants have inherited taillessness because few tailed cats have been imported to breed out this genetic abnormality.

A less probable, but nevertheless published, explanation, is that the Manx cat was the last animal to enter the Ark — and Noah shut the door on its tail.

Q **We've been asked to adopt Fred, a *six-month-old* Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, complete with his pig house, by friends who are moving into a flat. They've told us how to feed him and he seems friendly. We have a large and well-fenced garden but can you foresee any difficulties?**

A Plenty. Pigs of any variety are not pets, and Fred is only half-grown. He'll become at least three times heavier and, if he's not castrated, will develop a strong smell which is very attractive to female pigs but not to anyone else.

If he has commercial pig food, a well-fenced enclosure and a muddy patch around his hutch he'll come to no harm. Make sure he's vaccinated against swine erysipelas. Fully grown boars can be aggressive and if Fred has to spend his life in solitary confinement he could get bored and bad tempered. It's not easy to handle 200lb of pig with a wide open mouth.

Unless you've always had an ambition to be a pigkeeper, say no. Firmly.

JAMES ALLCOCK

ADOPT ME

Betty needs a quiet home

BETTY is an affectionate and gentle 11-month-old, black-and-white spayed cat who has been at the centre a couple of months. She is lively and playful and gets on well with other cats but is nervous, and would suit a quiet home with a responsible owner or a family with older children, where she could gain confidence.

If you are interested in adopting Betty or another cat, please contact the Cats Protection League in Ealing, West London, on 0181-752 0793.

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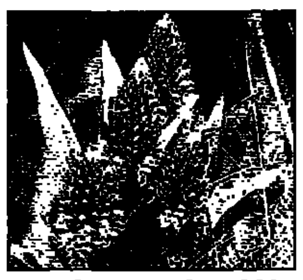
A shadow looms over the moors

Protests are mounting over peat cutters' exploitation of a thriving habitat for Yorkshire wildlife. **Nick Nuttall** reports

In danger: heath butterfly

Peat fuel: cotton grass



Southern marsh orchid

A windswept Yorkshire moorland has become the centrepiece of a dispute between conservation groups and the Government's wildlife advisors, who are at odds over the best way to conserve the nation's most important nature sites.

Thorne and Hatfield moors, Britain's biggest remaining fragment of raised lowland bog, is home to wondrous carpets of sphagnum mosses.

They also hold southern marsh orchids and more than 5,000 species of insects and invertebrates including bog bush cricket, the scarce vapourer moth, heath butterfly and bog hog beetle.

Over this moist, haunting land, one of Britain's best colonies of nightjar is on the wing. The moors are also important for breeding and wintering birds including nightingale, woodcock and grasshopper warblers.

The area was listed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act in the mid-Eighties. But the moors also hold fascination for other parties, whose interests conflict with the wildlife there.

For centuries,the land has been cut for peat — made up mostly of common cottongrass. But more recently it has been owned by a string of peat companies which, using milling and industrial water-pumping machinery, have been stripping and drying out parts of the bogs to supply the horticultural trade.

Now critics say the moors are threatened with a final indignity, bringing into question the ability of English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, to defend the best of Britain's natural world.

English Nature has a management agreement with Levingtons, the company working the peat, and is proposing that 100 hectares of Thorne and 300 to 400 hectares of Hatfield should be downgraded. Some areas no longer justify the criteria of being SSSIs mainly because they have dried out as a result of peat extraction.

"It is a significant area. In the case of Hatfield, it is around a quarter of the site," says Matt Phillips, biodiversity and habitats campaigner at Friends of the Earth.

English Nature's move has triggered possibly the biggest outcry ever seen among conservation groups in Britain, including Friends of the Earth, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Peat bogs also hold ancient records of climate, vegetation such as fossilised forests, and human remains and artefacts. Each metre of peat represents 1,000 years of history.

So English Nature has also found itself at odds with the Council for British Archeology. Richard Morris, its director, says: "For every ancient Briton retrieved from a bog, others are likely to be shredded in a bag (of peat)".

The Government's Environment Agency is also objecting on the grounds that changes in the water table may result.

All local authorities in the area, close to Doncaster, have protested along with the two local MPs and hundreds of local residents, some of whom are redundant miners or the sons of former peat cutters.

Hans Joosten of the University of Greifswald in Germany and an expert on peatlands, has questioned English Nature's reports justifying the denotifications.

His views are supported by Richard Lindsay, former peatland specialist with the Government's wildlife advisors and head of wildlife conservation at the University of East London.

"Many of these worked areas still have a metre of peat left. These so-called bare areas may still have a great deal of conservation value which English Nature simply has not looked at."

Derek Langslow, chief executive of English Nature, was recently asked by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, to name any organisation supporting its case.

"I do not think we have had a letter of support," he replied.

Given the apparent lack of support for its actions, the advisors have laid themselves open to claims that the relationship with Levingtons has compromised their position.

D-day for the moors arrives early next month, when English Nature will announce whether denotification will go ahead — or be abandoned or shelved, pending more studies.

Mr Phillips says the outcome will be watched keenly by the peat extraction industry and by other landowners with one of England's 4,000 SSSIs on their properties.

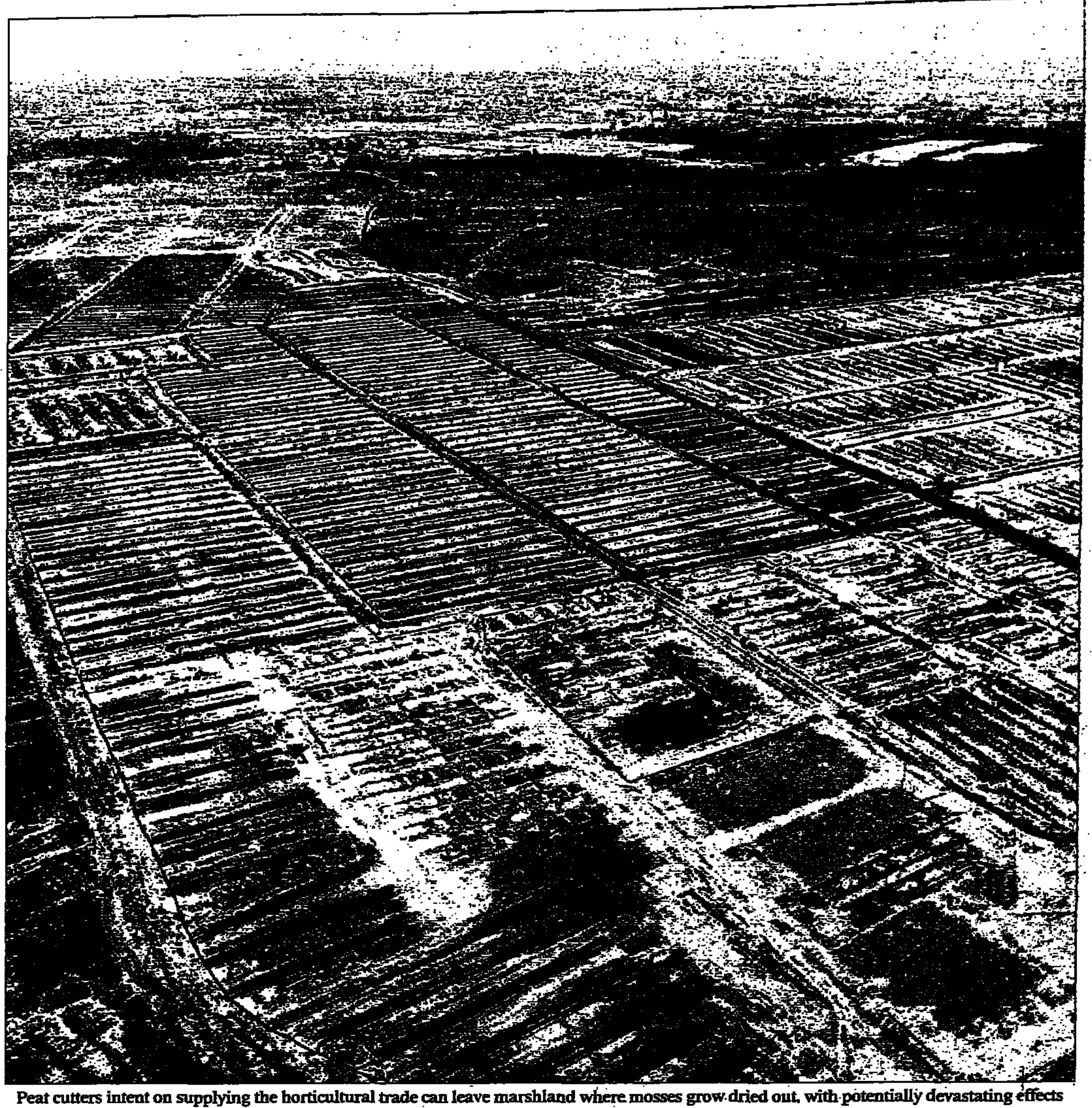
"English Nature reckons that around five per cent of SSSIs are on land owned by people who deeply resent that site having been designated. If parts of the moors are denotified they will say 'Hey, all I need to do is damage this site and they will denotify it'," he says. Thorne and Hatfield moors have become a crucial test case and on November 17, an alliance of environmental groups, expected to be joined by the National Trust in the new year, will publish their Wildlife Charter calling on Government to meet its manifesto pledge to boost wildlife protection laws.

One part of the charter calls for a review of historical peat rights as well as gravel and other mineral extraction rights, granted during and just after the Second World War. Mr Phillips says these rights, often known as Interim Development Orders, are threatening more than 100 SSSIs and now need to be subject to modern, environmental standards and scrutiny.

He says the groups want the Government to copy an Austrian model. Here these historical rights were recently reviewed. Mining, gravel and peat extraction firms had to prove that the areas covered by these rights were not environmentally threatened.

A similar scheme here would allow local authorites to cancel those rights, without compensation to businesses, if they deem them to be harming or threatening key nature sites.

JEREMY YOUNG



Peat cutters intent on supplying the horticultural trade can leave marshland where mosses grow dried out, with potentially devastating effects

BRUCE COLEMAN

Under threat: Nightjars have settled on the moors

Anger over 'dry' river

A PRETTY river and a lake, home to rare water voles, birds such as snipe, swans and moorhens, and flowers including the celery-leaved buttercup, have dried up after a water company closed its treatment works upstream.

Conservationists claim the plight of the Roundmoor River and Dorney Lake in Buckinghamshire underscore the need for more powers for the Environment Agency to tackle similar threats nationally.

Experts believe that drought and the over-abstraction of water from underground springs are to blame for the loss of the lake and the two-mile stretch of river, and they are outraged that Thames Water shut the works at Burnham, which was discharging treated water into the river.

Iain Corbyn, the head of conservation at the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, says: "It's worrying that a natural river cannot flow on its own without the input of treated water discharged from a sewage works."

MARTIN SPRAY, the director of the wildlife trust, says: "There are no mechanisms to prevent such disasters. Thames Water acted within its its legal rights and was not obliged to even consider the environmental consequences."

Ironically, the Environment Agency had just dredged the river and cleaned out Dorney Lake unaware that it was about to dry out. Conservationists were alerted to the loss in July by Tim Cummings, a farmer.

A spokesman for Thames Water said that the *Burnham works* were in danger of failing European standards. He denied that over-abstraction had helped to kill the river and lake.

The wildlife trust, the water company and the agency, have discussed how to resolve the problem, and Thames has agreed to look at restoring flows and dredging out and narrowing the Roundmoor's channel.

NICK NUTTALL

At home in a dome

FEATHER REPORT

PETER BROWN

Newcomer: penduline tit

THERE HAVE been several reports this autumn of a little reed-haunting bird that is rarely seen in Britain: the penduline tit. One was reported on the Kent coast earlier this week. It is not, strictly speaking, a member of the tit family but it is closely related and has the lively ways of a blue tit.

In plumage, it looks like a miniature red-backed shrike, with a dark patch through the eye and a chestnut-coloured back. Its tail is not especially long but is very noticeable, since the bird uses it all the time as it moves about.

It is mainly a bird of the *swampy riversides of southern* and eastern Europe. I have seen it by the edge of the Vistula in the suburbs of Warsaw. I also saw its nest there: a remarkable sight.

The nest is domed, made of grass and dry nettles bound together with animal hair and usually hangs from the outer branches of a willow tree, often with the water flowing beneath it.

Sometimes the nest is suspended between three or four reeds like a reed warbler's nest. The entrance is through a little spout-like projection, high up on the side of it, and the interior is lined with the downy seeds of plants.

The nest plays a special part in the strange way of life of the penduline tits. Studies of the species in Germany have shown that after a pair has mated, and the female has started incubating her eggs, she drives the male away. Because the chicks will grow up in a fairly safe, warm nest, she can, if necessary, bring them up on her own.

The male goes on building other nests indefatigably, and tries to find one or more other females to mate with him and lay a clutch of eggs in the nest she has built. But he may go back later to his first mate and help her to feed the young, or he may help one of his other mates. He, too, can bring up a brood on his own if one of his females happens to be killed. An incubating female is not wholly deserted, incidentally, because other males will come and visit her, looking at her through the spout.

Penduline tits feed on tiny insects and on the seeds of bulrushes or reed mace. The latter taste sometimes gives their presence away. Should you be in a Danube swamp and see feathery seeds drifting from a clump of bulrushes on a still day, it may well be because a party of penduline tits is attacking them. This action reminds me of how I once detected a tree-creeper. I was walking through a wood of tall young firs and a shower of red bark-flakes suddenly fell on me. It was a tree-creeper working silently away, teasing out insects high up the trunk of the tree I was passing.

PENDULINE tits have been breeding further and further north over the past few decades — for instance, they have colonised Denmark.

The vagrants seen in Britain may have been northern birds which went astray on their autumn migration to somewhere such as Portugal. But there seems every likelihood that they will be recorded more often in this country, and we may even have one of their quaint nests hanging pendulously somewhere in a willow before long.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — look out for goldeneye on lakes, reservoirs and flooded gravel pits. Twitchers — a penduline tit at Dungeness, Kent; an alpine swift at Cley, Norfolk; a dusky warbler at Dunbar, Lothian. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*

Christmas Gift Guide

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CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE also appears on pages 14 & 15

'In rural areas, early rising has become a tradition kept alive only by a dwindling, elderly population – apart from dairy farmers'

The worm turns for early risers

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

Worms are safe here in the eastern counties, if research by the water companies is to be believed. If the early bird catches the worm, then no wriggly creature east of the M1 need ever fear for its life. This is because, apparently, we East Anglians are all slumbering soundly when others are up and about.

Research has shown that of all the regions of England, people in East Anglia rise from their beds the latest. This was deduced from the results of monitoring the demand on the water supply, which increases rapidly once the early morning flushing of the lavatory begins. Because this peak of consumption occurs later the farther east you travel, water companies have assumed that it is because we get up later. Fools!

Is it not possible that there is something bladder-strengthening about life out here? Could it not be that the Siberian winters have taught us to hang on that little bit longer to anything that might keep our bodies warm? Equally, have they not considered that there might be several people who have no use for one of their prissy flushing devices and, instead, prefer a trip behind the barn or to the bottom of the garden, where it does no end of good to the compost heap?

Just because we appear to "go" later in the day than some others, we are branded idle when it could well be a symbol of inner strength. Having said that, I have a suspicion that they may be right. I cannot speak for town or city dwellers hereabouts, but in rural areas early rising has become one of those traditions kept alive only by a dwindling, elderly population (apart from dairy farmers, who have yet to discover a way of persuading a cow to hang on to her milk until the *Today* programme is over).

Mainly it is kept up by the older generations of landworkers who, all their working lives, were expected to have done a couple of hours work before an 8am breakfast. They find it difficult to rid themselves of the habit and are up with the lark, when there is really very little for them to do.

It was always a matter of shame for me, because whenever one of these old-timers phoned me in the morning, it was before 7.30am. This required the performance of a lifetime, to try to act as if I had been bustling around the farmyard for hours, spreading straw, feeding bullocks and grooming carthorses, when the truth was that the phone was by the bed and the sum total of that day's exercise so far had been rolling over.

However, I would claim not to be entirely idle in my ways and, although the first light of day has often gleamed on my prostrate body unnoticed, I have made up for it at other times of day. For example, there is no greater pleasure at this frosty, damp time of year than ploughing with horses while a vivid, crimson sun sets, the frost settles and a halo of mist surrounds the horses as steam from their bodies turns into a fog. No one who had risen early enough to take pleasure in the winter dawn would still be on the land at teatime: it is too long a candle to burn at both ends. Memoirs of farming life tell of men and horses standing by the edges of the fields on cold winter mornings, waiting for sufficient light to see the furrows of the previous day. They speak, too, of early walks down dark lanes from farm to field, the sparks from the iron-shod feet of the horses the only illumination.

In his evocation of Suffolk farming life earlier this century, Hugh Barrett wrote of his times as a farm boy in *Early to Rise*. "The Guv'nor would shout up the stairs that it was time to get up. One lay in bed for a few moments looking for a light at the window, but five thirty was too soon for even a tremble on the eastern horizon. At ten to six we went across to the stable where for an hour or more, George had been at work." Shaming, isn't it?

But perhaps burning one's candle later in the day is not entirely without virtue. When we had cattle yarded in the winter, I took great pleasure from giving them a fresh bed of deep straw last thing at night — a task which would have been less pleasant conducted under the first rays of a rising sun. In the twilight they seemed more grateful for it, and in the orange glow of the stockyard lights it seemed as if I were laying out a bed of gold.

This was the time of day when our barn owl came hunting, swooping low over the hedges and ditches, hoping for me to leave the barn doors open so she could perch on the beams, ready to pounce on some unsuspecting mouse which foolishly assumed that once I had gone it was safe for him to emerge and gorge on the corn.

So I confess to being an afternoon sort of chap, and I have the good fortune to be able to choose. Even so, it is with the greatest reluctance that I admit it, for is there not some stigma attached to being a late riser, even if "late" in this context means eight o'clock? When I told my town friends that I had a farm, they gasped and said: "All that getting up at five in the morning! I suppose you do all that." To my shame, I always nodded.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

Moving in for the kill: Vinny and his lurcher

Determined to keep on rabbiting

Hunting with dogs is not confined to the well-to-do. **Lee Henshaw** finds it on a council estate

MICHAEL POWELL

Vinny Faal outside his council house in Manchester. "I don't want anyone telling me I can't teach my son ferreting"

It's a wickedly cold Cheshire afternoon, and three men, two dogs, one boy and his ferret, are hunting for rabbits. The smaller dog, a Jack Russell, is working the farmland scrub, frantically trying to disturb the quarry. In the farmer's field, Vinny Faal and his lurcher are waiting. Should the rabbit bolt towards them, the lurcher will have it. Should it go to ground, the ferret will leave its box.

Vinny says: "Up to the point where we catch the rabbit, it's had a perfectly good life, and what we catch, we take home and eat. For me, this is the most natural situation for a man to be involved in."

Mr Faal is a member of the pro-hunting lobby working to prevent the Wild Mammals (Hunting With Dogs) Bill proposed by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, becoming law. The polar opposite of the caricature of hunter as red-coated gentry, Vinny and his hunting partners live on Manchester's Wythenshawe council estate, the largest in Europe.

Describing the Cheshire green belt near Wythenshawe as a "play area" for him and his children, he believes Foster's Private Member's Bill — currently on wobbly legs because of the Government's refusal to find it the necessary parliamentary time — is a threat to the working-class tradition that has "right on its side".

The just-published Field Sports Bill is designed, says its backers, to outlaw the hunting of deer, fox, hare and mink with dogs. Were the Bill to become law, and he had the permission of the landowner, Mr Faal could continue with a sport which takes him into Cheshire, and sometimes Cumbria, on the Sundays between September and February. But should his dogs be seen to pursue one of the protected animals, the landowner could face the prospect of a six-month prison sentence or a £5,000 fine — a ruling, in Vinny's view, that makes the Bill far more embracing than its supporters admit.

Mr Faal is a Labour Party man and occasional politico — he supported the struggle of the miners in 1984, campaigned against the poll tax, and stood with Swampy in the battle against Manchester's second runway. He is one of the most vocal protesters in the Sharston Terrier and Lurchers Club, a 300-strong Wythenshawe group established to fight Foster's bill.

"We are fighting this attack," he says, his wild gestures making the ferret in the box slung over his shoulder stick an inquisitive head out. "We're not really team players.

"We usually only hunt in pairs, but this attack was so severe, we organised a letter-writing campaign to our MP, who received more than 300 letters."

The New Labour MP for Wythenshawe is Paul Goggins. A supporter of Foster's Bill, he has consulted the Sharston Terrier and Lurchers Club, and believes it brings an "interesting dimension" to the debate.

"Those who support hunting are characterised as well-to-do people in rural areas," he says. "But Vinny and company are saying it isn't that simple."

The efforts of the Jack Russell have uncovered no rabbits, so the team moves to an adjacent field. As he negotiates the rough with his walking stick, Vinny talks about his natural alliance with another class of hunter.

"The Cheshire lot, they're toffs," he says, smiling. "There's no getting away from it. We're working-class Labour supporters, they're Tory supporters, but we've got a common enemy in Michael Foster. The man's interfering in things that shouldn't concern him." Earlier this year, Vinny was invited to speak at a precursor to the hunting lobby's massive Hyde Park summer rally, to which the Sharston club took 200 members. The event, organised by the field sports association, the Countryside Alliance, was held on the Duke of Westminster's estate in Chester.

"Vinny spoke marvellously and eloquently," said Robin Hanbury-Tenison, of the Countryside Alliance, who believe Vinny's passion for hunting with dogs shows this rural tradition to be classless.

"It's extraordinarily classless. It might be caricatured by pub pictures of squires in red coats riding roughshod over the countryside, but the very nature of what happens has nothing to do with money or class; just a profound interest in watching the best form of wildlife management which is practised in this country."

Vinny recalls the day: "I just stood up and told them I didn't want Foster telling me I can't teach my kid ferreting, and I told them about the problems in Wythenshawe, that ferreting is an escape for me and my son from all the crime going around us."

In Wythenshawe (population 80,000) a third of all adults are on benefit. In some districts, unemployment is 44 per cent. Last month, there were six shooting incidents in notorious Benchill, where Vinny lives.

Liam, 14, the son of Vinny's friend Kevin, is now demonstrating how his alternative to the trappings of Wythenshawe street culture works. The Jack Russell has located a rabbit warren, and Liam is netting it.

Next, he releases the ferret into the warren, to flush out the rabbits. Does Vinny think learning to kill rabbits is a healthy pursuit for a youngster?

"The urban population is so far removed from any form of death, it's untrue," he replies. "Organisations like the League Against Cruel Sports have demonised us because we kill something and take it home and eat it," he says. "Yet the majority of people wouldn't think twice about buying a chicken without considering whether it was intensively reared. We only do what someone in an abattoir does."

Huntsmen have had their day

The anti-hunt veteran **John Bryant** answers critics of Michael Foster's Bill

Michael Foster's Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill offers the best chance to end a sport which has no place in a modern Britain.

I have no doubt whatsoever that the people of Britain will put an early end to so-called "sports" in which dogs are urged to attack and savage wild animals to death, in the same way as sports in which bulls and bears were baited to death by dogs ended 160 years ago.

Despite recent reports that the Government will not allow parliamentary time for the Bill, I believe that it will reach the statute books within 18 months, because of the support from the public and the Prime Minister's personal pledge that he will vote for the measure.

Even if the House of Lords throws the Bill out, as it may well do, I believe that it will return to the Commons after a year, unamended, and will be passed.

And this is not just the wishful thinking of someone who, having spent nearly three decades of his life campaigning against blood sports, cannot face the prospect of failure.

'I believe the Bill will reach the statute books in 18 months because of public support'

For many reasons, the momentum in this country is now against hunting with dogs.

Yet another counterproductive tactic of the hunting lobby is its insistence that a ban on hunting will inexorably lead to the abolition of shooting, fishing and even ferreting. This is not true: the simple truth is that there is not the support in the country or in Parliament for a Bill to outlaw such practices.

The defenders of hunting are fighting a losing battle with the public: even their pro-hunt rally in July failed to turn public opinion. Surveys show that more than 70 per cent support the abolition of hunting, including nearly six out of ten rural dwellers. According to NOP, nearly half of Britain's farmers no longer permit the hunting of wild animals on their land; mainly because farmers are unwilling to accept the damage that is inevitably caused by a hunt in full cry.

Over the past 30 years, 45 hunts have disappeared because of the loss of hunt territory. Motorways, electrification of railways, farmers' bans (including the Co-Op's 60,000 acres) and anti-hunt resolutions of about 160 local authorities (including 37 county councils) have all put the squeeze on hunting.

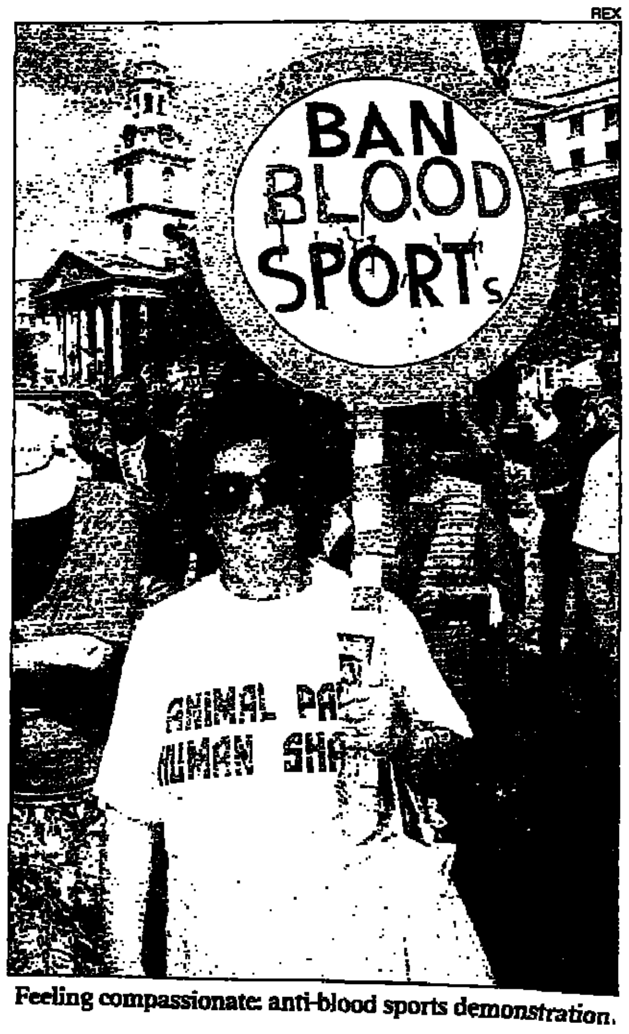
Over the same period, the number of drag hunts and bloodhound packs (which hunt either an artificial trail or the scent of a human athlete) has increased from eight to 31. These humane hunts agree their scent routes with landowners, never trespass and do not cause the problems so common in fox, stag and hare hunting: of hounds stampeding livestock, killing pets, invading gardens and causing road and rail accidents.

The reality is that history is on our side. This summer alone the New Forest Buck Hunt was wound up, the National Trust reconfirmed its decision to ban deer hunting and the Forestry Commission restricted hunting on its land.

Hunting has had its day and is simply no longer tolerable in a modern and compassionate society. The abolition of hunting is supported by the majority of Labour MPs, including a number of Ministers, and Tony Blair. A big vote in favour of the Foster Bill at its second reading will create the necessary parliamentary momentum to end hunting.

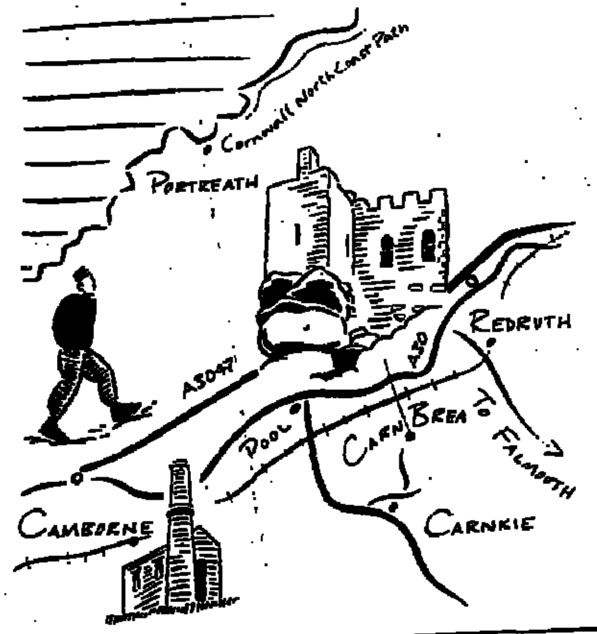
The savaging and hounding of animals to death and glorification in the blood of fox, deer and hares have no place in a new compassionate Britain. This country has a proven tradition of leading the world in animal welfare and should continue to do so.

● *The writer, formerly chief officer of the League Against Cruel Sports, is an adviser to Michael Foster, MP, and the Campaign for the Protection of Hunted Animals.*



REX

Feeling compassionate: anti-blood sports demonstration.



JANE SPENCER

ON THE SPOT: CARNKIE, CORNWALL

Rural recommendations

The place: Carn Brea Castle, Carnkie, Cornwall.

The view: to the northeast of the bracken-covered hilltop lies St Agnes Beacon, and on a clear day you can see St Ives and Falmouth. This is possibly the best vantage point in Cornwall.

The appeal: magical place with a historical and mythical past.

Aficionados: historians, archaeology-lovers and diners from the castle.

Historic interest: the granite carn on which the 15th-century castle stands is the largest hill fort in Cornwall. It rises 740ft above sea level and contains the remains of an Iron Age settlement, including ramparts and huts. Hundreds of flint arrowheads excavated from the slopes of Carn Brea have been dated back to a Neolithic settlement about 5,000 years old. Local folklore tells of a giant whose body is preserved in the granite bolders.

Time to visit: any clear day.

How to get there: from the A30 take the Pool turnoff and follow signs for Mineral Tramways Discovery Centre to Carnkie village. Carn Brea is signposted.

OS ref: 687/409 on sheet 203.

Also nearby: Redruth, once the capital of the Cornish mining industry and the instigator of coal-gas lighting. The fishing village of Portreath is four miles north. Camborne School of Mines, three miles west, has a museum and gallery. There are scenic walks along the Cornwall North Coastal Path.

DEBORAH KING

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Beauty and sorrow

Ruth Gledhill visits

a Serbian church

ON MY one visit to the former Yugoslavia, the country's almost mystical beauty was still evident, if scarred by the wrecks of burnt-out houses and devastated towns and cities. Back here, at the Serbian Orthodox church in Bournville, Birmingham, there was once again that sense of Balkan beauty. But, like their country, the faces of worshippers were marked by sorrow.

In this church, we stood on a marble floor imported from Serbia, surrounded by colourfully ornate frescoes. We purchased three candles for £1, lighting two for the living and one for the dead.

The priests, a father-and-son team of Father Milenko Zebic and Father Alexander Zebic, began celebrating the liturgy behind the spectacular icon screen made in Belgrade and brought to Britain with the help of British companies during anti-religious communist rule in Serbia.

Orthodox priests, though not bishops, can marry and have families. As we moved into the anthems, sung in a melodic eastern style comparable to Gregorian chant, the haunting soprano voice of Dragana Zebic, the wife of Alexander, emerged.

TO BE A Serb in Britain has its problems. Occasionally, an abusive telephone call is received, and the mosaic depiction of St Lazar, martyred by the Turks at the battle of Kosovo in 1389, which decorates the exterior of the church, suffers from vandalism. It was on the feast day of St Lazar, June 28, that Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in 1914 in Sarajevo, giving rise to the First World War.

During the last war, 10,000 Serbian Orthodox Christians fled to Britain. About 360 families use St Lazar's. The liturgy is celebrated in Church Slavonic, with readings and the sermon in English. For the "great entrance", the "hymn of the cherubim" was sung, the sanctuary and congregation were censed and both clergy came in for the offertory prayers, kiss of peace and the Creed. The consecration, intercessions and the litany, followed. The Orthodox Christians then received the sacrament. Non-Orthodox were offered bread blessed after the service.

● *Serbian Orthodox Church of the Holy Prince St Lazar, Cob Lane, Bournville, Birmingham B30 1QE (0121-458 5273).*

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

PRIEST: the Very Rev Father Milenko Zebic

ARCHITECTURE: built in 1960s in Serbo-Byzantine style of 14th century. ★★★★★

SERMON: *on that day's gospel reading.* ★★★

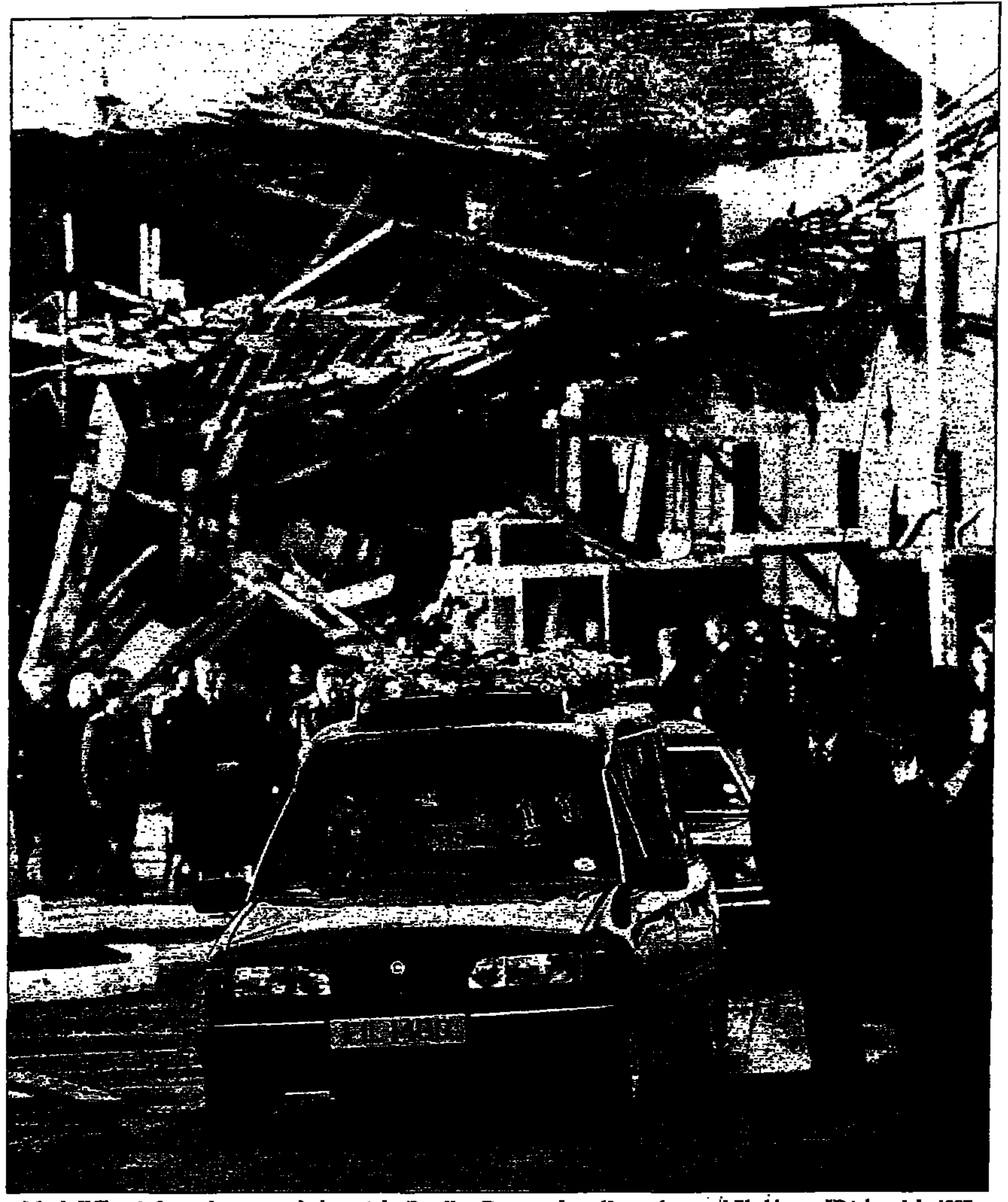
MUSIC: Beautifully sung chants. ★★★

LITURGY: of St John Chrysostom. ★★★★

'Sunday will be a hard day for us'

The Enniskillen bomb destroyed Joan Wilson's family, but, says **Martin Fletcher**, it has not destroyed her faith

REX



Marie Wilson's funeral cortege winds past the Reading Rooms where 11 people were killed by an IRA bomb in 1987

It is hard to reconcile Enniskillen as it is now with the scenes of carnage that jolted the world 10 years ago today. This pretty market town in Co Fermanagh's lake country is bustling and prosperous. It is Northern Ireland's best-kept town. Just in time for the 10th anniversary of an atrocity so vile that even Gerry Adams called it "wrong", Enniskillen has cleared the rubble of the Reading Rooms where a 40lb IRA bomb exploded minutes before the Remembrance Day ceremony at the nearby cenotaph.

But the normality masks much pain and suffering and many triumphs over tragedy. Some have set aside their anger, others emphatically have not. This morning, banks of cameras will record the tears as the town lays wreaths in memory of the 11 killed, but they cannot tell the stories behind those tears.

Noreen Hill has spent 10 years nursing her husband Ronnie, the high school headmaster who has never emerged from a coma. Jim Dixon suffered appalling head injuries and is in constant pain. George Evans, a policeman, woke up in hospital unable to remember his family. Doctors doubted he would ever walk again, but he has fought his way back to health. Then there is 66-year-old Joan Wilson, who has endured more than most could ever bear, but who somehow smiles still. Sitting in the kitchen of her large, grey house this week, she wound a handkerchief endlessly around her hands as she recalled in a quivering voice how her family of five was reduced to two.

Her husband, Gordon, and daughter, Marie, a 20-year-old student nurse, were buried in the wreckage. She played the organ at an impromptu church service as she waited for news of them. When someone said her husband was at the hospital with a broken arm she and her son, Peter, rushed to his side, but for hours no one could find Marie.

Joan Wilson: undefeated

Peter finally identified a mangled bracelet brought from the operating theatre. Mrs Wilson, Peter and her other daughter, Julie Anne, were taken to see Marie. The nurse said her heart could stop at any moment. "There she was, strung up with tubes. I remember saying 'Oh, her hand is cold' and then the nurse said 'Her heart's stopped. She's gone'."

That night, Mr Wilson gave a memorable BBC interview describing how Marie held his hand beneath the rubble and said she loved him. He forswore bitterness and promised to pray for her killers. Mrs Wilson initially could not share those sentiments, but now believes the interview forestalled Loyalist retaliation.

Mr Wilson launched a one-man campaign for peace and reconciliation. He sold his draper's shop and travelled, gave talks, wrote a book and became an Irish senator. He held a fruitless meeting with IRA leaders and was widely criticised for giving the IRA legitimacy. He insisted the word "killed", not "murdered", appear on the cenotaph plaque commemorating the bomb's victims. In December 1994, Peter died in a car crash. He was 38, with a wife and two young daughters. In his grief, Gordon Wilson worked non-stop for peace and it cost him his life. Within six months he was dead of a heart attack.

Mrs Wilson's home is filled with pictures of her dead family. The pain never eases — "there's a chilling sadness there, sometimes worse than others".

She regrets that the Enniskillen bombers have not been caught — as many as 30 were involved, according to a new book by Denzil McDaniel, editor of Enniskillen's *Impartial Reporter* newspaper — but displays no bitterness.

"I hate what they did. I don't hate them," she says. Forgiveness was a matter for God. Some of Enniskillen's bereaved and maimed deplore Sinn Fein's presence at the Stormont peace talks, but Mrs Wilson argues that talking is better than killing and longs for an end to violence.

For Mrs Wilson and others like her, this weekend is a great ordeal. "I'm dreading it," she admits, "yet it will be a chance for me to give thanks that I've survived and to pray that my grandchildren will grow up in a peaceful Ireland."

Millennium offers rich fuel for Christian imagination

Credo

DOUGLAS GAY

Imagination is a big word these days in theological circles. This has everything to do with the coming of the new millennium and the pervasive PMT (pre-*millennium tension) afflicting groups and* organisations at every level. The Christian churches are suffering such pangs more acutely than most, since they have a huge stake in the anniversary. We are told that this year's Christmas advertising campaign funded by the churches will feature a copyright symbol in an attempt to remind people of the true meaning of Christmas. Few seem as confident of being able to stake such a claim on the year 2000, despite the obvious arguments for its Christian origins.

The truth is, we are all intimidated by the challenge of celebrating the millennium. We are all dwarfed by it and it towers above our imaginations just as time and God do. Whatever the aspirations of Peter Mandelson and Cameron Mackintosh, nobody can throw a party big enough to carry off this celebration, or build a tower high enough to mark it. One of the most reassuring signs in the current climate of millennium planning is the sense of inhibition generated by the fear that our attempts to build big may simply end up mocking us.

So, in London, we are building a "dome", a frail heaven of PVC to showcase our earthly achievements in the past 2,000 years. More of an attempt, perhaps, to hide from God than to reach up to God. The design brief for the interior invites architects and designers to reflect on themes such as "who we are — body, mind and soul" and to address questions of "the meaning of life" or "is God dead?". Far from slapping any copyright symbols on the celebration, the Christian faith is expected to compete for its chance to explore these generalised questions of meaning alongside anyone else with the wit and imagination to do so.

There is a huge challenge for the churches to think about what we might bring to the party. No doubt we will have our own private parties to which all-comers will be invited, but we are clearly in need of something to bring to the public one.

Mercifully, God has anticipated the timidity of ecclesiastical imagination by giving us the Bible. If our imaginations cannot be fired by its volatile, terrifying, beautiful and gracious world, we should forget the party and stay at home. It may be that projects like the Bible Society's Open Book initiative will give us some of the impetus we need to open the scriptures again in public places.

Richard Bauckham, Professor of New Testament Studies at the University of St Andrews, said recently that "the purpose of the book of Revelation is to purge and refurbish the Christian imagination". In *the face of the dominating power of* imperial Rome, the writer's inspired imagination constructs an alternative vision of reality which is deeply subversive of the powers that be and awe inspiring for the persecuted witnesses to Jesus Christ. Has there been a greater act of imagination in the past 2,000 years than the one in Revelation in which we are led into the throne room of heaven and shown a Lamb upon the throne?

What should fire the Christian imagination is the sense that the scripture we read and sing week by week, contains writing as lurid as the current *Sensation* exhibition and as sublime as the sweetest curve in the Greenwich dome. We can't, shouldn't and don't need to copyright the millennium celebrations — we'll just bring a book in case they get boring.

● *Douglas Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Church.*

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

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Edited and introduced by Ruth Gledhill

There are many men and women preachers throughout Britain delivering fine, well-constructed, enjoyable sermons, who deserve recognition beyond their own congregations but who fail to achieve it. Ruth Gledhill, religious affairs correspondent of *The Times*, recognised this, and the result was *The Times* Preacher of the Year Award 1995. The collected sermons for 1995 and 1996 have since become bestsellers.

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CHANGING TIMES

Church Services tomorrow

Twenty fourth Sunday after Trinity Remembrance Day

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11.30 M, Thou knowest Lord, (Purcell); 3.15 Ch Euch & L, Wood in D.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Darke in F; 3.30 RBL & TA Service, Jackson in G minor.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 10.50 Ch Euch & Act of Remembrance, Canon D Lee; 4 Ch E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Civic Service; 10.30 Euch, Darke in F; 4 Ch E, Canon Hall.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.55 *Remembrance Service, Canon B M Jones;* 3.30 E, New College Service (Howells).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Euch; 10.50 Remembrance Service; 3.30 Ch E, Responses: Sumsion.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 10.45 Remembrance Service; 12 S Euch; 3.15 E, Howells in G; 6.30 Sermon & Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.15 Remembrance Service, Archdeacon D Turnbull; 3 E, Long in F; 6.30 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, 10.55 Ch M & Act of Remembrance. Responses: Ebdon, Canon D Knight; 6 Ch E, Rev I Moody.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 3.30 E, Purcell in G minor.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Requiem (Duruflé); 3.30 Ch E, Wood in E flat no 2.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in E, Canon O'Donovan; 11.15 S Euch, Requiem (Fauré); 6 E, Stanford in C.

CORK CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells); The *Dean;* 7 Ch E.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Darke in F, Rev J Petty; 3 German Lutherans; 5 E; 7 Requiem (Fauré).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Rhodes Service; 6 Ch E, Responses: Sanders, The Provost.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 10.15 Remembrance Service, Canon D Brown; 11.30 HC; 3.30 E, Eden in G.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Remembrance Service, Fugue in E flat (Bach), Ven J Watson; 11.45 HC; 3.45 E.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart); 12.15 HC; 3 Remembrance Service.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 10* Euch, Darke in F; 11.30 M, Stanford in C; 3.30 E, Rev P Wood.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.45 Remembrance Service; 11.45 HC; 4 Ch E, Farrant in A minor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.55 Remembrance Service, Bishop of Shrewsbury; 11.15 HC; 3.30 E, Naylor in A.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 8.30 M; 9 S Euch, Stanford in C; 10.40 Remembrance Service; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Remembrance Service, Canon N Vincent; 3 Ch E; 4 HC.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: *7.30 M; 8* HC; 9.30 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon I Bennett; 6 Ch E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Responses: Stewart, Canon J Harris; 6.30 E, Rev S Lodwick.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Harris in F; 10.45 Remembrance Service, The Dean; 3.30 E.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C, Canon A Wilkinson; 10.50 S Euch of Remembrance, Requiem (Fauré); 6.30 E.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Canon J Armson; 10.50 Remembrance Service, Requiem & Kyrie (Duruflé); 3.15 E; 6.30 King's School E.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Memorial Service for Glider Pilots; 10 Requiem for Remembrance Day; Darke in E, Rev A Philp; 3 Ch E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Ven S Lowe; 6.30 E & Sermon, Jackson in G.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Missa cum jubilo (Plainsong); 3 Ch E, Howells in G, The Treasurer.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 10.55 S Euch, Requiem Mass (Fauré), Rev S Farmer; 3.15 E.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley); 3 Royal British Legion Remembrance Service; 6 E.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Rite A; 11.30 M, The Short Service (Gibbons); 3 E, Chichester Service (Archer).

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 10.30 Remembrance Service, Requiem aeternam (Byrd); 3 E, Rev C Wilson; 5.45 Organ Recital, John Hoskin; 6.30 ES, Canon E James.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Solemn Mass, Messe de Requiem (Duruflé); 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Solemn V & B; 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 Remembrance Service, Responses: Lloyd; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley); 3.30 E, Stanford in E flat, Canon C Stewart.

YORK MINSTER: *8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch,* Jackson in G; 11.30 M; 12.30 Remembrance Service; 4 E, Sumsion in A, Canon Dr J Toy.

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rutter Service; 10.55 Sol Euch of Remembrance; 6.30 E, Moeran in D.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 10.50 Remembrance Service, The Dean; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Remembrance Service, Pie Jesu (Fauré); 6 Ch E.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 LM; 11 Remembrance Service; *11.30 Solemn Mass, Fr J E Cronin; 6 LM.*

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Missa Brevis (Gabrieli); 11.30 Remembrance Service, The Minister; 6 Organ Recital, David Thomas; 8 ES.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Glasgow: 8.30 Euch; 10 S Euch; 12 HC; 6.30 Ch E.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Remembrance Service; 6 ES.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 10.45 M with Act of Remembrance; 11.45 Euch; 3.15 Ecumenical Service of Remembrance & Dedication.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M and Commemoration of the Fallen; 2.30 E; 3.15 S Euch, Requiem (Fauré).

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SOULS, W1: 8 C; 9.30, 11.30 MP, Rev R Bewes; 6.30 EP, Mr D Turner.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 MS, Missa pro defunctis (Vittoria).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 10.55 Remembrance Service; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev D Beam.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev N Lee; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev S Downham.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Requiem (Fauré); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Locus iste (Bruckner); 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 10.50 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 Remembrance Service; 6.30 ES, Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege; 7 Ch Vespers, Rev G Neumann.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 10.55 M, Elgar in E; 6.30 Ch Euch, Requiem (Victoria).

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 10.55 Remembrance Service, Setting: Fauré, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 10.50 Remembrance Service, Russian Kontakion, Rev R Bayliss; 12.30 HC.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 10.45 Remembrance Service, Rev J H McIndoe; 3 London Scottish Parade Service; 6.30 ES.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 Remembrance Service, Requiem (Duruflé).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Ireland in C, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Requiem (Fauré); 6 Ch E, Ireland in F.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 10.45 Remembrance Service, Rev J Richardson.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 Remembrance Service, Rev Kevill-Davies; 6.30 E.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors Service; 2.45 Chinese Service; 3 Service of prayer for Christians of Britain & Ireland; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rite B; 11.15 Ch M, Rev Dr D Stone; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E, Fr F Gelli.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Requiem (Fauré); 6 Solemn E & B; 7 LM.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rev J Ovenden; 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, W1: 8 HC; 10.50 Remembrance Service, Brigadier B Fullerton, Requiem (Duruflé).

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 10.55 Solemn Euch, Requiem (Duruflé), Rev J Paton.

ST PETER'S SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Euch; 11 S Euch; Missa Collegium Regale (Howells).

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 10.50 M, Responses: Radcliffe; 7 Residents Remembrance Service.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 10.55 Remembrance Service & M, Stanford in C; 3.30 E.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 10.50 Remembrance Service, Britten in C; 12.30 HC.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL, WC1: 10.55 Divine Service for Remembrance Day.

QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST GEORGE, Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC; 10.45 M, Canon White; 11.45 S Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams); 5.15 E.

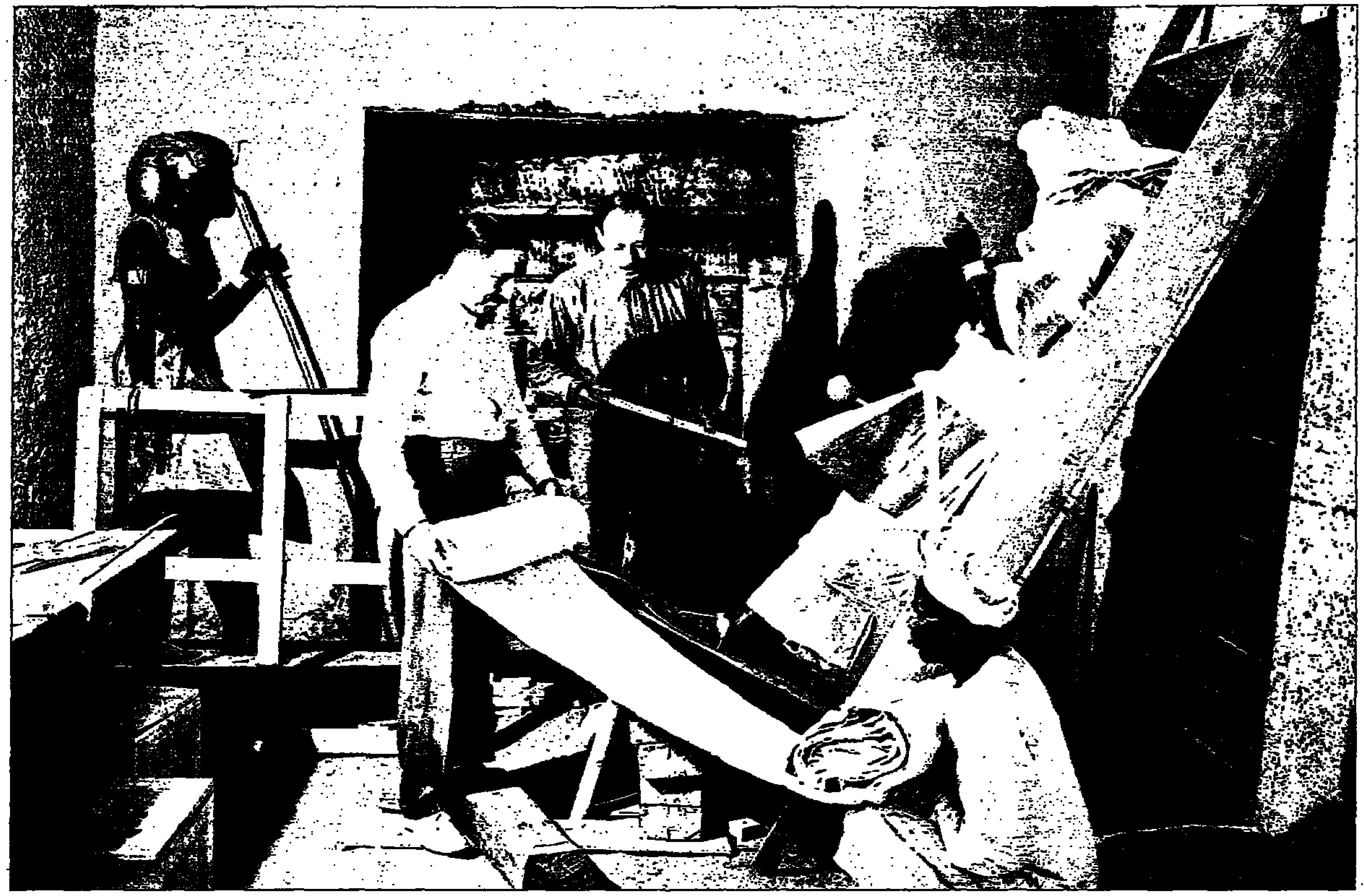
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11 MP & Remembrance Service, Responses: Smith, The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 10.55 M, Benedicite Pt.I; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 10.50 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Rev R Nurton.

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

Mummy's boys get together



Fabulous relics lay undisturbed for more than 3,000 years in Tutankhamun's tomb at Luxor. Egyptology at Belstead House in Ipswich, November 14-16

NOVEMBER 14-16

Activity weekends in Scotland. Abseiling, river rafting, tank driving, walking, fly fishing in the Grampians with Tartan Collection Activities (01339 883500). Prices, including equipment, instruction and accommodation in first-class hotels, £179.

Walking in autumn. A weekend of guided walks, each about eight miles long, on and around the western section of the South Downs. Plus evening lectures on the local ecology. From the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Prices start from £152 residential, £108 non-residential.

Cycletouring. Three-night cycletouring breaks in Cheshire with Byways Bike Breaks (0151-722 8050). Cycle hire available. *Price* £110 including daily luggage transfer.

Train driving in Wales: Learn to drive a steam train with the Fairbourne and Barmouth Railway line in Gwynedd (01341 *250362). Practical courses on all* aspects of steam trains, demonstrated on four engines. Price £98 per day. B&B accommodation available.

Festive cookery (Nov 14-16) at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester

The Road to Santiago and Muslim Spain: Exoticism and Western architecture; Images of the body. Three courses at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Prices from £117, including accommodation.

The courts of Renaissance Italy; The winter sky — astronomy; *Victorian and Edwardian architecture in London*; Bridge; Promoting a sense of well-being. A selection of the courses at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). Price £159 residential, £59 *non-residential.*

Colonialism in the 19th and 20th centuries; Music of the 1920s and 1930s; Science and religion. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price £36, including full *board accommodation.*

Scrabble weekend; Bridge for beginners; Gourmet cooking. In the Welsh Marches with Acorn Activities (01432 830083). Price £125, inclusive.

Autumn fruits and flowers in gouache; Egyptology. *Two courses* at Belstead House Education Centre, Ipswich (01473 686321). Prices from £75-£95, inclusive.

Improve your duplicate bridge. Hawthorn Bridge, Hove, Sussex (01895 824240). Price from £127.

Cooking for Christmas; Scottish country dancing; Learn to swim; Pastels for beginners. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester (01243 670392). Winter brochure now available. Weekend rates from £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Cake design with Christmas in mind; Crafts for Christmas, Yoga; *Calligraphy.* *Four courses at* Horncastle College, Horncastle, Lincolnshire (01507 522449). Price £87 inclusive.

Woodcarving; Guitar ensemble weekend: Painting detail in watercolour; Backcare workshop. All this weekend at the *Old* Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306). Brochure available. *Weekend rates from £114 residen*tial, £90 non-residential.

NOVEMBER 21-23

Winter walking weekends. Two- and three-night breaks in the Cotswolds, Lake District, Wensleydale and the Peak District with English Wanderer (01740 653169). Prices from £99 to £143.

China painting; Wine appreciation; Colour and style workshop; *Continental lace.* *At Horncastle* College, Horncastle, Lincolnshire (01507 522449) Price per course, £87, residential.

Photography; Black and white printing. At Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992 813027). Price, inclusive of accommodation and tuition, £102.

Conservation in action, energy, resources and recycling; Batik and silk painting; Working in oils. *At the* Field Studies Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £79-£104, all inclusive.

Painting in miniature; Harpsichord workshop; Painting portraits in oils; Genealogical research with Stella Colwell. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth (01798 865306). Price £114 residential, £90 *non-residential.*

Nineteenth-century dance; Floral arts; Calligraphy; Welsh. At the Hill Residential Centre, Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny, Gwent (01495 333777). Price per course, £88, including accommodation.

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"We shall *remember them*", the story of the First World War; First steps in parchment craft; German. At Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northamptonshire (01933 312104). Price per course, £89, inclusive.

***Shamrock and rose, the study of* Irish history; Literature tutorial weekends.** Both at the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Prices from £36-£70 inclusive.

Chinese wok cookery; Bridge for beginners; *Stress control and* relaxation; Stained glass; Miniature painting for beginners. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester (01243 670392). Prices from £142 residential and £98 non-residential.

Royal patronage through the ages; Hollywood's lost genres; Plato's Republic; George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £117, including full board accommodation.

Creative writing; Yoga; Greetings cards in watercolour. At Lanca*shire College, Southport Road,* Chorley (01257 260909). Price per course, £96.

NOVEMBER 28-30

A taste of Buddhism; Creative writing. *At Ammerdown Centre,* Radstock, near Bath (01761 433709). From £36-£69, inclusive.

Schubert's 150th anniversary; Dyslexia, a practical approach. At Braziers, Wallingford, Oxon (01491 680221). Price, all inclusive, £92.

Late autumn bird weekend; *Improve your photography*; Watercolours for near-beginners. At the Flatford Mill Field Study Centre (01206 298283), East Bergholt, Essex. Prices from £79-£102 inclusive.

Writers' workshop; Christmas quilting; Straw lacework; *Landscapes in watercolour*. *At the* Hill Residential College, Abergavenny, Gwent (01495 333777). Price per course, £88 inclusive.

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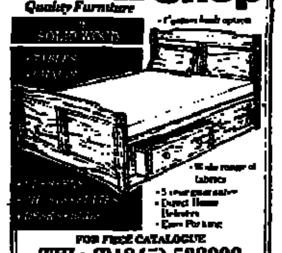

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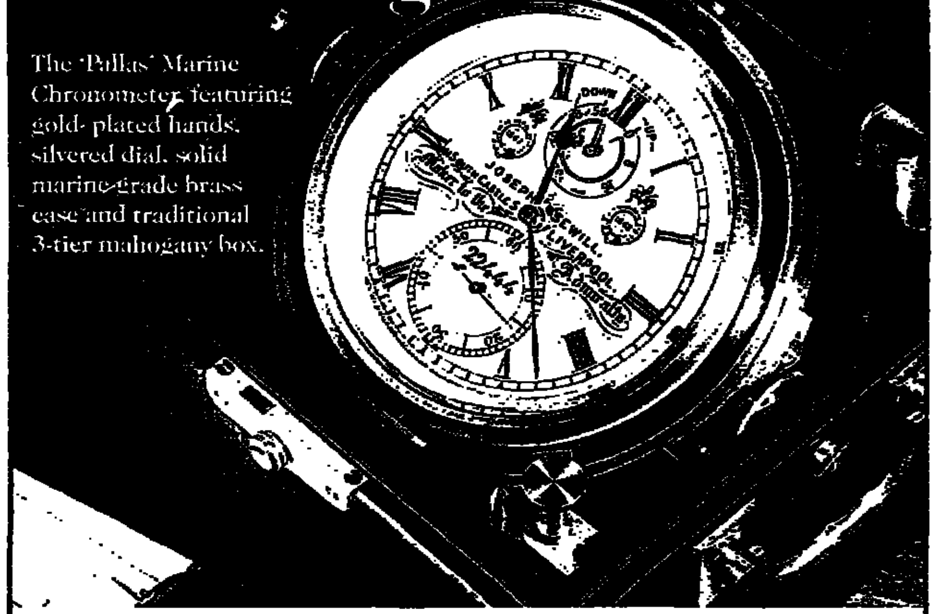

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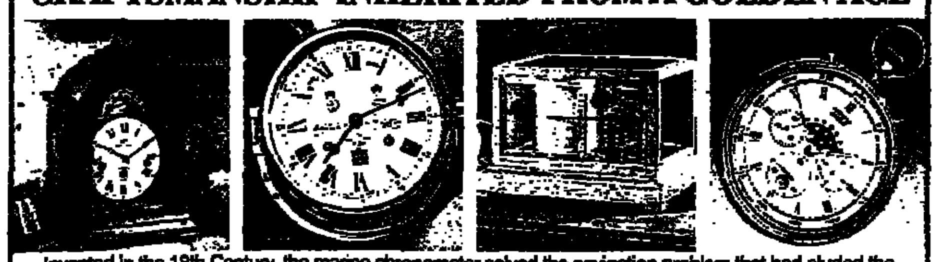

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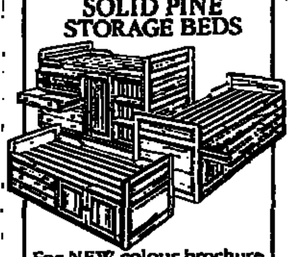

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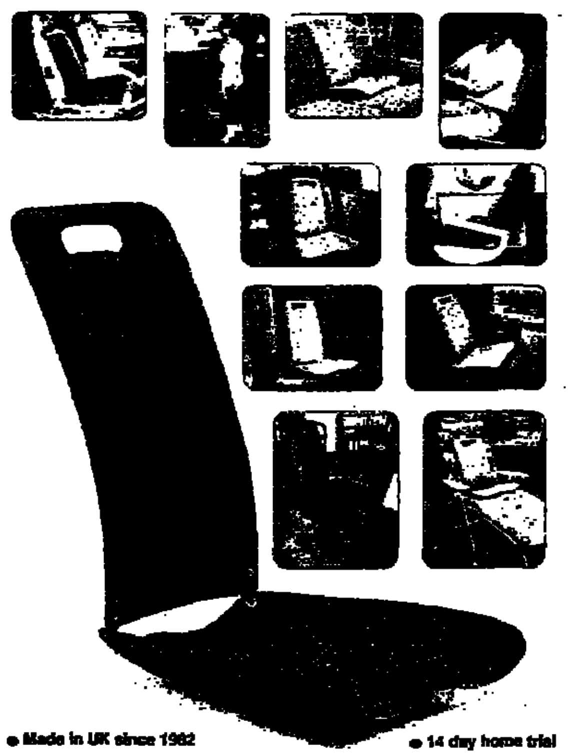

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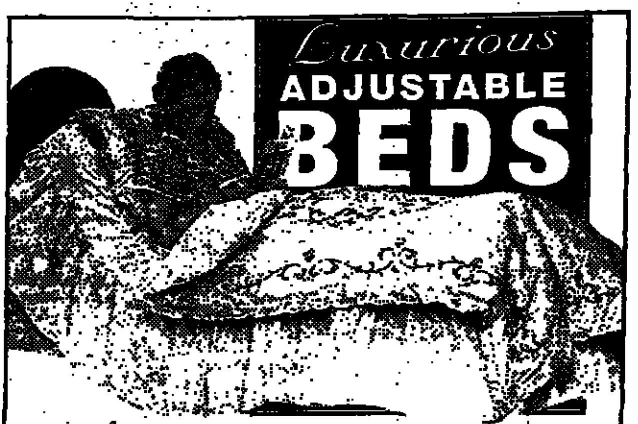

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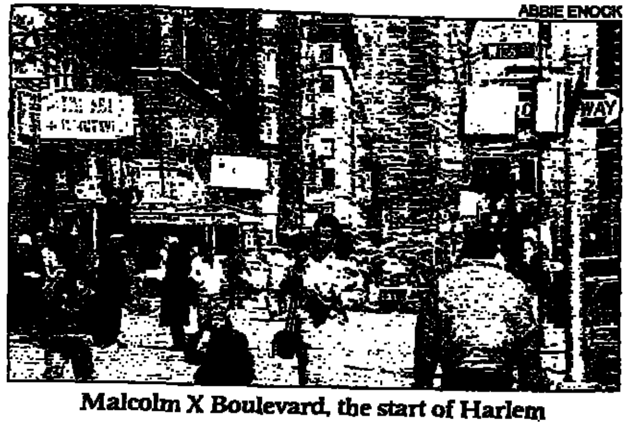
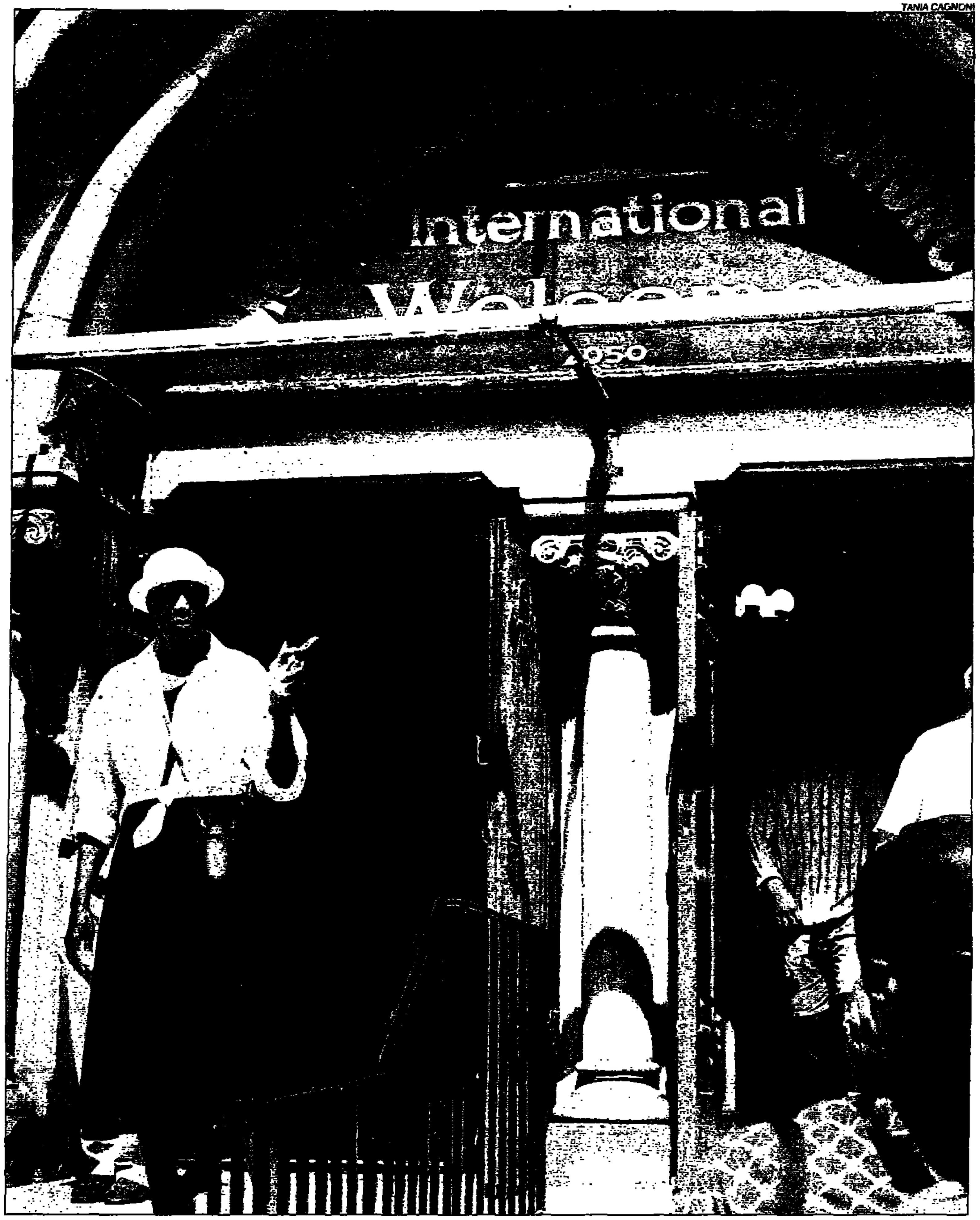


ABBIE ENOCK

Malcolm X Boulevard, the start of Harlem

Serving up soul food for thought

Sophie Campbell returns to Harlem to find its streets are now safe for visitors



TANIA CAGNONI

At the Mount Moriah Baptist Church "the only thing you can do is clap your hands, sing, stamp your feet and go into a trance," said our guide

At first glance, my *Streetwise Manhattan* map ends at 110th St. There is Downtown; there is Midtown and there is Uptown. And then there is nothing. Until you turn over and find another 110 blocks going north, right to the very tip of the old Indian trail now called Broadway, where the Harlem River meets the Hudson, and two ugly bridges jump across to the Bronx.

This is the flip side of New York, a whole half a city which is invisible to most visitors. This is where 6th Avenue becomes Malcolm X Boulevard, and 7th Avenue becomes Adam Clayton Powell Jr Boulevard (named after a controversial black Congressman and preacher), and the dogs in the parks are pit bulls.

This is Harlem, and for the residents of the Upper East Side it might as well be a different planet. Anything beyond 96th Street is known jokily to white New Yorkers as the "DMZ", or demilitarised zone: a no man's land.

When I first visited New York, aged 18, rumours were swirling about visiting students at Columbia University who got the wrong subway, cut across the Harlem end of Central Park, and never made it. That was back in 1980, the start of the era that spawned Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, when coming off the freeway at the wrong exit and landing up in Harlem or the Bronx was one of the most dangerous things you could do. Certainly it was a nadir in Harlem's history, but it was also the 1980s, and poverty was unfashionable.

Harlem didn't start poor — anything but. I found this out on my first foray north of 110th Street, on one of the tour buses run by Harlem companies. It was like going into Jerusalem or Belfast — one of those places you have known everything and nothing about all your life — and we stared out of the windows at the Spanish graffiti and the young men, mostly black or Hispanic, chatting or drinking or smoking outside Puerto Rican travel agents and liquor stores with metal grilles.

Our guide reeled off statistics: one fifth of New York City's 7.3 million population is black, and 200,000 of them live in Harlem; there are two Spanish-speaking parts of Harlem (one in the west, and "El Barrio" in the east) sandwiching the black area in the middle; Brownsville and East New York in Brooklyn have taken over from Harlem as the most dangerous suburbs in New York . . .

The bus rolled past Columbia and up on to the Heights — Morningside, Hamilton and Washington — which come as a shock if you think of Manhattan as a flat grid. They are built on a mighty rock escarpment, and the houses and apartments are grand.

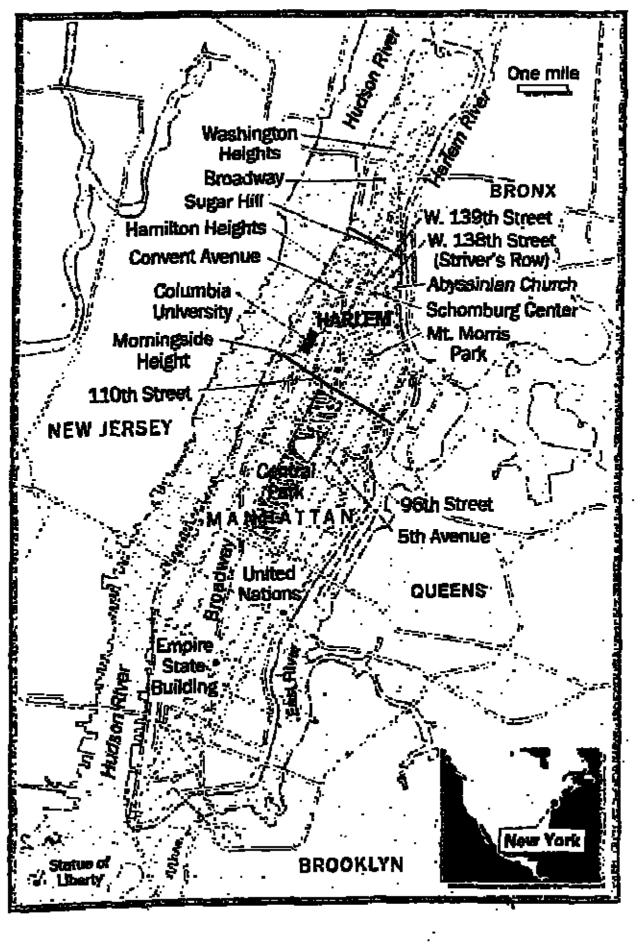
This is posh Harlem, and always has been. We climbed off outside a pretty clapboard cottage and tried not to look over our shoulders as the guide explained that it had been built in the late eighteenth century by Alexander Hamilton, statesman. In those days, the fields of Nieuw Haarlem were dotted with farms and the country estates of the rich, and when the railroad came in 1837 New Yorkers built summer houses, a yacht club and an opera house. Then the poorer immigrants started to arrive. Smart money moved out, the developers overreached themselves, and at the turn of the century cheap leases were sold to black families in chronic need of housing. By 1914, Harlem had changed colour.

The Hamilton house is the centre of a preservation area. The sober, elegant brownstones line streets such as Sugar Hill (so called because "sugar" was slang for money), still some of the most exclusive addresses in New York. Striver's Row (on West 139th Street) was named when middle-class blacks began to move into its houses in the 1920s, the era of intellectual and artistic flowering known as the Harlem Renaissance.

Twenty blocks to the north, another pocket of grandeur exists in the form of Sylvan Terrace, a double row of miniature two-storey houses, and the Morris-Jumel Mansion, which served as HQ to George Washington during the War of Independence. Behind its cool, white columns and peaceful garden the land drops away to the Harlem plain, lying humid and sulky many feet below. It was a perfect illustration of social altitude: from these dizzy heights Harlem — the real, infamous Harlem — looked like an old circuit board. The creepy whoop of sirens just reached our elevated ears.

We drove down there for a gospel service at the Mount Moriah Baptist Church. "The only thing you can do in this church is clap your hands, sing, stamp your feet and go into a trance," said our guide exultantly. It was a strange experience, at once moving and diminishing. The choir seemed joyfully possessed by the music. We visitors sat like parents at a school play, not wanting to seem aloof, but quite unable to join in. I came out feeling shame at my role of spectator and an unholy envy of the music.

It took me a while to realise that Day Tours and Jazz Tours and Soul Food Tours are the standard route into Harlem for cautious whites. Or, as the writer Geoffrey Moorhouse put it with mortifying bluntness in his book on New York: "Three times a week, between spring and fall, the bus takes a load of white voyeurs to scrutinise the blacks." This is nothing new. Nancy Cunard and friends twirled their pearls at the Cotton Club, the Savoy and the Harlem Casino in the 1920s while legends such as Count Basie and Duke Ellington performed. The crowds cheering the Harlem Globetrotters were usually predominantly white.



Still, I felt bad. So when I visited New York last winter, I called Big Apple Greeters, the successful scheme which pairs visitors with volunteer New Yorkers for a stroll around their neighbourhood, and asked if they had a volunteer in Harlem. They did. I met Adeline outside the Schomburg Center — the biggest archive of African-American history in the US. She had a large, kind face and was worried about what I wanted to do. Would I like to walk around for a while?

So we strolled about streets that I had seen from the bus, past the famous Abyssinian Church and the sign in Striver's Row saying: "Private Road: Walk Your Horses", until we reached what used to be the Renaissance Ballroom Dance Hall. "I came to New York in 1945 and I remember going to the 'Reny' for dances," said Adeline. "There were lots of young men who would dance. Then you could say goodnight and go home — Harlem in those days was all lit up at night. I could walk through Mount Morris Park [now also known as Marcus Garvey Park], it was so safe." She could remember the supper clubs — places where you could go after church and get crab cakes — and the visiting celebrities such as the boxer Joe Louis and the days when dances and basketball and the YMCA were the focus for youth in the area.

Then came the Civil Rights riots of the 1960s, followed by strict rent controls in the 1970s, and soon it was more lucrative to burn your property down than rent it out. Harlem became a wasteland of burnt-out, boarded-up houses (known as "shooting galleries" because of the addicts and dealers that used them). As I was arriving in New York for the first time, people like Adeline were surveying the wreckage of their communities and wondering what on earth to do.

We went to a soul food restaurant for lunch, and ordered escovietch fish (pan-fried with spices) and smothered chicken and fried plantain, while Adeline tried to explain what Harlem was like to live in now. "I've never had any fear. But there are sections . . . and there are times . . . I would say stick to the avenues, the big streets, and probably don't go to 125th, 135th and 145th — there are a lot of pushers there." Perhaps not for long, though. In another of New York's violent social cycles, Harlem is changing again, and people are talking about a second renaissance.

Churches, mosques and synagogues have combined with city government to provide (and pay for) decent housing, shops and schools for their areas. Harlem Week — which now takes the whole month of August — is one of the biggest street gatherings in the world. Property developers are circling the camp fire, looking hungrily at the last undeveloped part of Manhattan that has public transport, period houses and large parks, and big companies (including Disney and Motown, it is rumoured) are moving in. Local leaders are looking at both with scepticism. As for the gospel services (80 of Harlem's 300 churches now practise some form of "tourism ministry"), worshippers are politely making their feelings known about becoming sideshows for foreigners.

With luck, in a few more years, tourists will add Harlem to their itinerary as automatically as they might include Chinatown in San Francisco, or the Quartier Latin in Paris. With luck, in a few more years, it might be just another part of New York.

FACT FILE

■ **GETTING THERE:** Sophie Campbell flew to New York JFK from London Heathrow with British Airways (0345 222111) which offers a London-New York return, November to March, from £305 (not including approximately £43 taxes).
Thomson City Breaks (0171 200 8900) packages, including flights from Birmingham, Gatwick, Heathrow, Glasgow and Manchester and a two-star hotel in Manhattan, start at £409 for three nights.
Cresta Holidays (0990 561814) has short breaks in New York, flying from Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Gatwick or Heathrow, from £369 for two nights in a two-star hotel (room only).
Sovereign (0990 768373) can provide flight and room-only packages from Birmingham, Gatwick and Manchester to New York from £379 for two nights at the Hotel Comfort Inn with continental breakfast.

■ **Visiting Harlem:** The following companies organise tours to Harlem (preface all numbers with 001 212):
Harlem Your Way! (690 1687) for walking tours.
Harlem Spirituals (757 0425) for gospel tours.
Community Tours (862 9000) for shopping and sightseeing, gospel and jazz (based at the Vanderbilt and West Side Ys).
Big Apple Greeters (669 2896). The service is free in all five boroughs of New York City, but they suggest that you book four working days in advance.
Harlem Visitor & Convention Association (862 7200) can give you general information, including dates of Open Days for houses on Convent Avenue (usually late spring/early summer) and details of sports and cultural events.

■ **Soul food:** Sophie Campbell paid around £12 for her soul food lunch at the Jamaican Hot Pot, 133rd and 7th Ave (491 5270), which is open seven days a week. Other restaurants include Londel's on 140th and 8th, Emily's on 111th and 5th and Sylvia's on 125th and Lenox.

■ **Don't miss:** Hamilton Heritage Area, Morris-Jumel Mansion, Audubon Terrace museums, La Marqueta (market) between 116th and Park Ave, and the eccentric Cloisters Museum (923 3700) in Fort Tryon Park. Then take the bus all the way back down Broadway.

■ **Best guide book:** Try to find the old edition of Vanessa Letts's superb *Cadogan Guide to New York* (£12.99), which has excellent Harlem walks (the new edition has a much smaller Harlem section). Otherwise, the *Michelin Green Tourist Guide, New York* (£8.49) has a couple of walks and an excellent map of Manhattan.

■ **Further reading:** *Imperial City: The Rise and Rise of New York*, by Geoffrey Moorhouse (Sceptre, £6.99).

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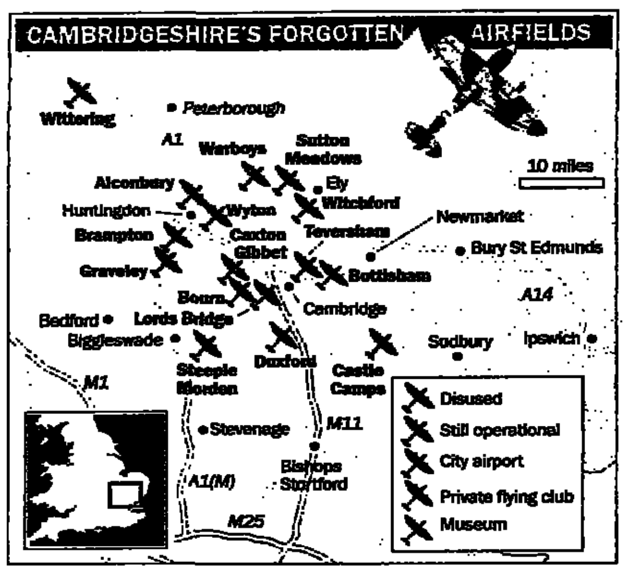
Where to go to see the last of the few

Many of the wartime airfields of Cambridgeshire have gone, but their heroic air crews are not forgotten, says **Susan Elkin**



If you are pounding busily northwards through Cambridgeshire's spacious wheaty vistas via the M11, A14 and A1, it is easy to forget that tens of thousands of airmen spent their wartime years based here in one or more of the county's 23 RAF stations, which are mostly now defunct.

Some 55 years ago, Cambridgeshire bristled with British and US airmen posted to the area. The Cambridgeshire sky, so quiet today, swarmed with Hurricanes, Tiger Moths, Wellingtons, Mosquitoes, Halifaxes and the like.

RAF Warboys, RAF Castle Camps, RAF Caxton Gibbet, RAF Lords Bridge, RAF Steeple Morden. The names are evocative. So are the many dramatic events which took place during the thousands of bombing raids from Cambridgeshire — such as the one over Bremen on 27 July 1941 from RAF Alconbury in which Warrant Officer McLenan, with ungloved hands, pushed burning bombs out of an airborne Wellington, thereby saving the aircraft and probably the lives of the crew.

What a contrast with the atmosphere today. RAF Teversham is now Cambridge airport. The former RAF Bourn and RAF Bottisham are private flying clubs although RAF Wittering and RAF Brampton and Wyton are still operational. RAF Gravely, at its peak a hive of activity for 4,000 people, is now gone, like most of its counterparts. Nothing is left there but farmland.

Why were there so many? "It's the flat fenland terrain," explains Wing Commander Bob Carr, press and publicity officer for the Cambridgeshire branch of SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association), a welfare charity for ex-servicemen and their dependants. "And East Anglia is Britain's nearest point to much of Germany."

Some 111 airfields were dotted through the five East Anglian counties but, just as if you were seeking Saxon burial grounds, you have to get into the air to detect most of them. A half-hour microlight flight from Sutton Meadows Airfield near Ely is enlightening.

Martin Aris, of Pegasus Flight Training, says: "At this time of year, when farmland is ploughed and bare, the perimeter tracks of the old airfields show up really clearly and there are dozens in this area."

If you want to explore from the ground go to Witchford, near Ely, where my uncle was stationed from April 1945 as a 21-year-old gunner with 115 Squadron. The war in Europe was nearly over but there was still plenty to do. Flying Lancasters, which carried about 20 people, Witchford airmen dropped food parcels ("Operation Manna") to the liberated but starving Dutch. "Then there were the trips nicknamed 'Cook's Tours' or 'Baedekers,' my uncle recalls. "We had to fly VIPs, office staff and ground crew over Germany to see the bombed cities."

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

RAF Duxford, aided by a £6.5 million lottery grant, opened its American Air Museum this year — a memorial for the 30,000 US airmen who died flying from British bases.

He was also part of "Operation Dodge", going to Naples to fly back members of the Eighth Army due for demobilisation. The journey — "We flew from Witchford across France and turned left over Monaco" — took eight hours in a Lancaster which could carry 2,000 gallons of fuel.

The former airfield at Witchford is now aptly named Lancaster Way Business Park and a small display of RAF Witchford memorabilia is on show to the public. There is a memorial, too, listing the names of all those from RAF Witchford who died. To this day my uncle and others who served in 115 Squadron are sure of a warm welcome and a drink on the house in Witchford's village social club.

To see immaculately-restored aircraft which fly regularly from its still-operational runway, go to Duxford, part of the Imperial War Museum, near Cambridge. The aerodrome at Duxford, built in 1917 for the expanding Royal Flying Corps, is one of the earliest RAF stations. It was of prime importance during the Second World War. Douglas Bader, who lost his legs in a pre-war flying accident, badgered the RAF to take him back and eventually commanded 242 Squadron from Duxford. In April 1943 Duxford was handed over to the United States 8th Air Force as headquarters of the 78th fighter group.

Douglas Bader, fourth from the right, with colleagues of 242 Squadron

Walk round Duxford's hangars. Look at how small some of those Second World War machines are close up. It lives up to its claim to be a "living museum". What a pity that Britain's only functioning Messerschmitt crashed and was seriously damaged at the last Duxford Air Show this year although, happily, the pilot was uninjured.

This year, Duxford, aided by a £6.5 million lottery grant, opened its light and airy American Air Museum — a memorial for the 30,000 US airmen who gave their lives flying from Duxford and other British bases. It was the P-51 Mustang — you can see one at Duxford — which swung the balance of the air war over Germany in favour of the Allies.

Wander round the Cambridgeshire lanes with their open spaces and lonely churches in search of air warfare history. But, of course, the romance is bittersweet, especially this weekend: 47,268 RAF personnel from Bomber Command squadrons alone were killed in action or died as prisoners of war between 1939 and 1945.

RUNWAY FACT FILE

- Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridge (01223 835000): near junction 10 on M11. Open daily (except December 24, 25 and 26). 10am-4pm (winter). Last admission 45 minutes before closing. No dogs. Adults (16+) £6.40; senior citizen (60+) £4.20: child (5-15), student, unemployed £3.20: under-fives free; disabled and carers half-price. Excellent selection of books on sale. Events hotline for information about 1998 airshows etc: 0891 516816 (premium rates).
- A display of memorabilia from RAF Witchford and RAF Mepal, 1943-1946, is in the foyer of Grovemere Holdings, Lancaster Way Business Park, off the A142 between Ely and Witchford. Admission free. Open weekdays, 9am-4.30pm. Also open today and tomorrow for Remembrance Day events. Other times by arrangement. Details from Barry Aldridge on 01353 664934.
- Pegasus Flight Training, Sutton Meadows Airfield, Sutton, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2BJ (01487 842360): air-experience flight in microlight, £39. Also trial lessons, hourly tuition and ground tuition towards acquisition of Private Pilot's Licence.

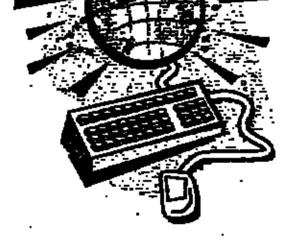
WEBWORLD ON WAR

THE "WHERE DO I START?" SITE: Out of the morass of World War-related sites, the best starts for each conflict are at *http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/timeline* and *http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/ww2time.htm*.

THE MUGGING-UP SITE: Visit "Trenches on the Web" at *http://www.worldwar1.com* for a clear history, guided site-tours and a discussion forum. *http://earthstation1.simplenet.com/wwii.html* contains Second World War sounds and pictures. At *http://www.hwy56.com/warlinks/* there is a full list of British Second World War links, with a voiceover from Churchill at *http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/* which has details of war graves visits and how to make donations online.

KER-CHING! THE BEST DEAL SITE: Holts Tours has a good site at *http://www.battletours.co.uk* detailing war-related trips from three days at Passchendaele for £310 to a bumper 14 days following the invasion of Malaya and the fall of Singapore, for £2,380. For those with less pocket money, buy 1:300 scale First World War aircraft for 75p at *http://www.spiritgames.co.uk/h-rlist.html*.

TRAVELLERS' TALES SITE: The best of the World Wars' sites are fleshed out with interviews and reminiscences, but at *http://www.2ndarmoredhellonwheels.com* one American regiment takes you back to most 20th-century conflicts with eyewitness accounts.



"WELL I NEVER!" THE RANDOM SITE: Tap into historically accurate, horribly complex war games at *http://www.eskimo.com/~graham/gamers/games.html* and see war games for sale at *http://www.webcastle.com/games*.

SUSANNAH JOWITT

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Should you have always wanted to visit these wonderful locations but have been dissuaded by the high cost, then this is an opportunity that should not be missed. As we are initially limiting the available places to just 20 per departure it is essential that early telephone reservations are made to avoid disappointment.
Itinerary in Brief
Fly by Monarch Airlines Boeing 757 via Luxor to Kilimanjaro airport 30 miles from Arusha, the gateway to the great game parks such as the Serengeti, Manyara, Arusha, Tarangire and the Ngorongoro Crater. Our hotel is the Mt Meru Novotel at the foot of Mt Meru situated in 15 acres of lush gardens. The 168 guestrooms and suites come with full facilities and air-conditioning. The hotel is under European management and boasts three restaurants, a number of bars and a lounge.
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Jonathan Croall finds sharp reminders of the Great War on the former battlefields of Flanders

GETTY IMAGES

The men of the East Yorkshire regiment pick their way among the shell craters and trenches after winning ground near Ypres on September 5, 1917. Today the craters remain but the notorious mud has given way to grass

Poignant Passchendaele

Eighty years ago, Siegfried Sassoon called it "a picture of hell". Others likened it to the surface of the Moon. Today Flanders, once a key part of the Western Front in *the Great War, offers a picture* of rural calm and tranquillity, a landscape reborn.

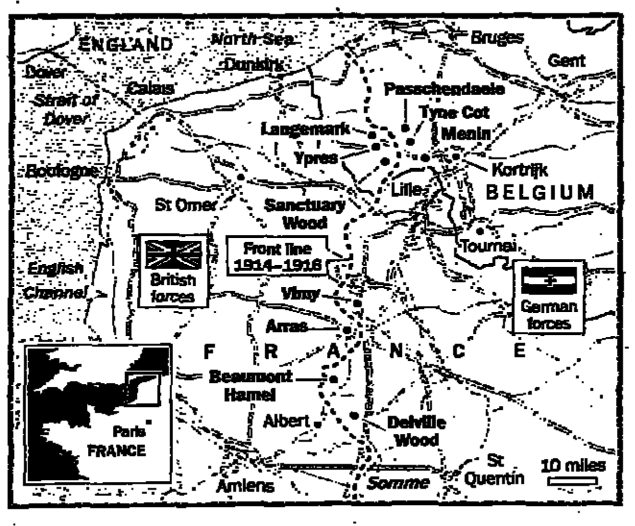
Yet reminders of the region's grim past are everywhere. Journey through the *flat Belgian landscape, or the lusher fields* of France, and at almost every turn you encounter battlefields, cemeteries and memorials that bear witness to the hundreds of thousands of men slaughtered here.

I was one of a group visiting former battlefields on the *Somme, at Vimy Ridge and* Passchendaele, names which still evoke potent images of loss and futility. It was a personal pilgrimage of sorts; my father, a lucky survivor, had come here as an underage 17-year-old, and been invalided out with trench fever at the Battle of Arras.

Our first battlefield stop was at Beaumont Hamel Memorial Park. Here on July 1 1916, on a day when the British Army as a whole suffered its worst *casualties, 1,800 men* were killed and 3,000 were wounded in just the first half-hour.

Standing in no man's land, knowing hundreds of unrecovered bodies still lay buried beneath your feet, was an unsettling experience. It also came as a shock to realise how close the two front lines were to each other — perhaps no *more than 250 yards* — and how the Germans' superior position clearly made carnage *inevitable among the British* and Canadian troops.

The old shell craters and trenches remain, although the notorious mud has given way to grass. A few screw pickets *that* once held coils of barbed wire still stand in front of the British front-line. In no man's land is a single tree — the "Tree of Death" — withered and bare, the only piece of nature that survived three years' fighting.



Beaumont Hamel is moving because it remains largely untouched by officialdom. Vimy Ridge, by contrast, seems over-organised. The site of a crucial breakthrough in April 1917 by Canadian forces, *who sustained huge losses,* its trenches contain concrete replicas of sandbags and duckboards, which somehow sanitise death.

More evocative at Vimy was a guided tour of the network of underground passages. Dug ten metres below the ground to avoid the impact of shells, they provided relatively secure headquarters for administrative staff, clerks and runners. Many soldiers, most of them former miners, were killed while making such passages, or tunnelling to lay mines.

The cemeteries around Flanders, with their eerie beauty, provide a sharp reminder of the individual tragedies *behind the appalling* casualty statistics. We visited three, including the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world at Tyne Cot, the burial ground for many of those killed in the mud at the third Battle of Ypres, known as Passchendaele.

There are nearly 12,000 graves here. About 75 per cent are British. Walking past the rows of white headstones, with their small plots of earth immaculately tended, you're *struck at once by the huge* number that bear nothing but the poignant inscription "A Soldier Known Unto God".

Where details were known, relatives added their own inscription. These vary from the accepting ("Greater love hath no man ..."), to the potentially ironic ("God moves in mysterious ways ..."), from the personal ("In loving memory of Dad, our hero") to the dissident ("Thy will, not mine, Lord").

Like other cemeteries, Tyne Cot has a register at the entrance, *recording the* names, plot positions and family details of all those buried here. There is also a visitors' book, with many of the comments reflecting our continuing incredulity at the waste of so many lives. As one visitor put it: "Why?".

Langemark came as a surprise: *somehow I hadn't* expected any German cemeteries in Flanders. Its atmosphere is totally different: cold, impersonal, with the defeated dead buried in small groups rather than individually. A further shock: in the centre is a mass grave, holding the remains of no fewer than 25,000 soldiers.

There are museums at several of the sites, providing photographs, explanations of battles *fought near by,* and artefacts from the fields. Many, such as the one at Delville Wood on the Somme, where a memorial to South African troops stands, are clear, clean and modern in their presentation.

Others seem little more than dumping grounds for wartime relics — although this can make them more interesting. At Sanctuary Wood in the Ypres Salient, two musty rooms held a motley collection of rusting weapons and other artefacts. Some antiquated photo viewing machines offered a harrowing glimpse of trench life — and death.

The largest museum display is in Ypres itself, in the rebuilt Cloth Hall in the Great Market which, like all the other buildings in this Belgian town, was flattened during the fighting. It includes vivid and touching photographs of the troops taken behind the trenches and in field hospitals.

Our tour ended at the nearby Menin Gate, a huge majestic arch on which are carved *the names of 55,000 men* who died in the Salient, but have no graves. Here, as the traffic stopped, we stood in silence as two members of the Ypres Fire Brigade played the last post.

This moving ceremony has taken place every evening since the gate opened in 1927. As the notes echoed under the arch, I wondered if it would be thought necessary in another 80 years' time.

FLANDERS FACT FILE

■ FINDING OUT: All British and *Commonwealth* cemeteries are looked after by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7DX (01628 634221). The commission holds details of all casualties from the two world wars on a computerised database, available free of charge to close relatives and comrades in arms.

■ GETTING THERE: Tours to the Western Front and other British battlefields around the world are arranged *by the Royal* British Legion Pilgrimage Department (01622 716729/716152), which administers a *scheme that offers* financial assistance for first-time visits by war widows (other relatives may also apply to the Royal *British Legion*). Each year around Armistice Day it organises a four-day, three-night coach pilgrimage to Ypres, *including personal* visits to cemeteries in the area. This year's pilgrimage cost from £269 per person.

Other companies going to the battlefields include:

■ Holts Tours (Battlefields and *History*) (0800 731 1914), a company staffed mostly by former military officers and military historians, has 16 coach tours to the Ypres-*Flanders* area next year. The all-inclusive price for an average three-day tour is from £259 including ferries and three-star hotels.

■ Flanders Tours (01722 744898) specialises in guided battlefield walks which can include personal cemetery visits. The Ypres Salient Memorial Walk, a four-day, three-night coach tour (June 19-22, 1998), includes a two-day *guided walk through the trench* areas of the battlefield, from £291 per person.

■ Galina International Battlefield *Tours* (01402 882200/882211/880602) has 15 Flanders tours in 1998. A typical four-day tour, including coach travel, ferry crossing, B&B in a four-star hotel and qualified history guide, notes and maps, costs from £50 a day.

■ *Middlebrook-Hodgson* Battlefield Tours (01205 364555) takes non-smoking coach parties of 26 people, starting from Boston, Lincolnshire, picking up en *route to Dover.* From £220 for three nights' half-board, picnics provided for lunch, tours personally guided by one of the two partners. Somme walking tours a speciality in spring and autumn.

■ Milestone Tours (0115 943 *6212) runs a five-day Battlefields* of the Great War tour including the Ypres Salient, Menin Gate, the Somme, Loos, Arras and Vimy Ridge, with time for personal remembrance visits, from £299.50 per person. Among other battleground tours, it is running a four-day Armistice at the Menin Gate trip for next year's 80th anniversary, leaving on November 9, 1998, from £249.50 per person.

■ The War Research Society's (0121 430 5348) Ypres visit next November costs from £232 per person for three nights half-board with en suite facilities, travelling by executive coach from Birmingham or Manchester. One of the couriers on each coach is an *historian,* and visits to individual graves are possible. For next year's 80th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, the society is also organising a trip to the Armistice Crossroads museum in Compiègne, from £232 per person.

■ *READING:*
Birdsong, by Sebastian Faulks (Vintage, £6.99); *The Regeneration Trilogy*, by Pat Barker (Viking, £18); *All Quiet on the Western Front*, by Erich Maria Remarque (Picador, £5.99); *They Called it Passchendaele*, by Lyn Macdonald (Penguin, £8.99).

War Walks 2: From the Battle of Hastings to the Blitz by Richard Holmes (BBC, £16.99) is published on Thursday to accompany a six-part BBC2 series starting at 8pm, Friday.

■ GUIDEBOOK:
Before Endeavours Fade, by Rose E. Coombs (After the Battle, hb £18.95/pb £11.95).

■ *Eightieth anniversary of the* Battle of Passchendaele: the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT (0171-730 0717 ext 2228) is running a commemorative weekend of films and talks Nov 22-23, admission free.

RENATA RUBNIKOWICZ

TREVOR RAY HART

Serre Road cemetery in the Somme battlefield

FROM THE BLACK SEA *to* KIEV

An 11 night cruise from Odessa to the Crimea and along the Dnieper River to the Ukrainian capital of Kiev

MAY TO SEPTEMBER 1998

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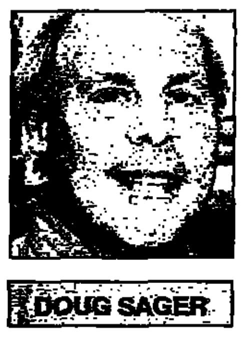
SKI WEEKEND: SNOWBOARDING

How to achieve the board look



DOUG SAGER

SNOWBOARDING is not rock and roll. It will die. And what will kill off this sport most quickly is the dreaded crossover phenomenon. Just as jazz loses its authenticity and vibrancy in "fusion" movements, so snowboarding is under threat from skiers crossing over as wannabe snowboarders, but without the guts and the attitude, and without the "commitment" that all snowboarders talk about.

I am a skier. But I learnt snowboarding the right way, making my first run ever down a steep, narrow trail in Saas-Fee with a rock wall on one side and ice cliffs on the other.

"Commitment" was the first word I ever heard from Fabien Rohrer, who is now number one freestyler in the world but was then only seventh in Europe and eager to show me around Saas-Fee's night spots until four in the morning — smoking, drinking bourbon and coke, and doing all those things that world-class athletes in other sports are not allowed to do.

WE WERE up on the glacier on the very first lift the next day. Learning to snowboard is exceptionally easy. I was able to make off-piste turns in powder snow after three days. But if you are over 40, there is no way you are not going to get bruised and bloodied in the learning process.

But that's as it should be. No one is going to say: "Coo-aal, dude", when you slide by on your training-wheels snowboard with sticks, as some clinics in America now suggest. Snowboarding has the soul that skiing has lost. And the sense of fraternity — though since 40 per cent of snowboarders are women, perhaps sorority is equally applicable.

Snowboarding is still crash and burn, bleary eyes and one of the few occasions you can call somebody "babe" without getting an earful.

Snowboarding officials agree that the sport will never attract more than 30 per cent of the winter sports population, and insiders suspect that snowboarding is at or near its peak now. For snowboarders, the party may be over, but knowing them, nobody will go home alone.

MARK JUNAK

Snowboarders favour inexpensive resorts with sophisticated night life and pistes dedicated exclusively to their sport

WHAT TO BUY

Snowboarders define themselves by clan, by where and how they ride and by what they wear. Even the boards look different. Terrain and rider temperament are the defining characteristics.

Freeriders go on and off piste and have the longest boards (165cm-180cm for an adult rider). Almost all British riders are freestylers. Freestyle is heavily influenced by skateboarding and adopts shorter, softer boards (160cm-165cm) with rounded ends for quick changes of direction. Snowboard parks are primarily for freestylers, who live for "bonking" — banging the board into objects — and taking "big air" (their term for jumping high).

Technical freestylers use even shorter boards (155cm-160cm) with a low-swing weight which allows acrobatics on the ice walls of halfpipes (deep U-shaped trenches dug into the snow). All of the above riders generally prefer soft snowboard boots. Racers and freecarvers use hard boots to crank their long boards (155cm-170cm) into carved turns that cut deep grooves in hard-packed pistes.

Few of the 300-plus snowboard manufacturers are represented in Britain. Among those that are, Burton, Nidecker and Oxbow are pre-eminent, though snowboarders sniff out smaller brands.

At the bottom end, Burton's A Series (£240) with pastel ocean-fauna graphics is a good range of wood-core intermediate freestyle/freeride boards. Most innovative this year is a new "step edge", said to work like the suspension on a mountain bike to give a smoother ride.

Snowboard bindings have various versions of bicycle pedal "click in" designs, where plates built into boot soles snap into platforms mounted on the snowboard. The advantage is not having to fall down to do up traditional straps. Introduced last year into the UK and highly successful is the Flow Slip-In (£140) binding, which can be used with any soft boot.

Snowboard boots have improved tremendously in comfort and performance. Northwave's Saturn Fusion (£170) introduces a foam-plus-lycra liner which promises unprecedented retention.

It is in fashion that snowboarding has had most impact. If there is anyone who hasn't yet got the message: baggy went out *years* ago. Colours now are pure, the designs simple. But snowboard clothing is seldom as durable as skiwear, where lifetime guarantees are common.

California's Swag has one of the most technical and eye-catching lines on the market, but the expensive Swag outfit I bought two years ago fell apart after one season. Australia's Billabong is moderately priced — the Colorado pullover jacket costs £139 and Billabong's full zip pant costs £115. One of the few firms to offer a two-year guarantee is Chromophobia. My choice for this winter is Chromophobia's 55 degree jacket (£259) paired with the mountain pant (£189).

WHERE TO GO

Snowboarders rate resorts much more idiosyncratically than skiers do, which is why top-ten lists of snowboarding resorts often appear unbalanced. Technical freestylers couldn't care less how vast the off-piste terrain is. They look for Pipe Dragons — very expensive, specialised machines which maintain the deep furrows and curved lips of halfpipes. But all snowboarders love a party, which is why Leysin, Flims-Laax and Avoriaz — all resorts with limited mountain scope, indifferent snow conditions and unexciting snowboard parks — always get rave reviews.

Snowboarders like to be treated well, with lifts adapted to carry snowboards and with snowboard trails and parks closed to skiers. Although Aspen Mountain, Alta, Taos and Deer Valley in America all ban snowboarders, no resort in the Alps does.

The ISF (International Snowboarding Federation) has selected Saas-Fee in Switzerland and the Kaunertal, the glacier valley in southern West Tirol, Austria, as official European training centres, meaning that from June to November these resorts guarantee that halfpipes and boardercross parks will be open and well maintained. While Saas-Fee has had excellent conditions, the Kaunertal has not been able to open either halfpipes or boardercross so far this autumn.

The ISF recently moved its PSA (Professional Snowboarders Association) headquarters to Davos, where the Jakobshorn lift company has donated offices in the Snowboarders Palace, renowned for its inexpensive accommodation and party atmosphere. Davos has huge open off-piste freeriding terrain and competition-class halfpipes. The resort also offers snowboarders discounted package holidays and has one of the top snowboard bars in the Alps, the Engelbar.

Saas-Fee's superb glacier halfpipes attract Europe's top snowboarders in early autumn, when the resort features snowboarder discounts. Popcorn Snowboardpoint in Saas-Fee is a snowboard shop built into a bar/bistro, and perhaps the number-one snowboarder's hangout in the Alps.

Les Deux Alpes is also famous in the snowboard world for its October clan gathering on the glacier, and in winter for a varied terrain and wild parties.

For off-piste freeriding in deep snow and down couloirs, snowboarders make the same choices as daredevil skiers: Chamonix, Val d'Isère, St Anton and Verbier in the Alps; Whistler, Red Mountain, Squaw Valley and Jackson Hole in North America. Verbier hosts an annual extreme snowboarding contest on the treacherous Bec des Rosses, where one snowboarder was killed last year.

American resorts have gone all out to woo snowboarders with mammoth adventure parks. Vail's Eagle's Nest mountain-top park opened last winter featuring night snowboarding and state-of-the-art jumps and obstacles. Keystone, previously off-limits to snowboarders, opened its Area 51 park last winter to boarder acclaim. Snowbird finally opened all areas of the resort to snowboarders last season too, as did Park City.

Resorts with zero snowboard cred at least among the hard core, include Zermatt, Courchevel and Lech, not surprisingly three of Europe's most expensive areas, with some of the least interesting snowboarding terrain in the Alps.

HOW TO DO IT

All the snowboard gear mentioned above is available from the *Boarded Up* catalogue (01932 569569) or from the following importers: Burton (01784 251000), Santa Cruz (0117 9556035), Flow (0115 9731001), Northwave (0171-336 6666), Billabong (01656 771749), Chromophobia (0171-371 8229).

Chalet Snowboard (01235 767575) is a snowboarding-specialist but it is unbonded, which means your money is not protected if the firm gets into trouble. It has free Burton test centres and snowboard guides in Avoriaz, Morzine, Les Deux Alpes and Lake Tahoe, California.

Crystal (0181-399 5144) offers two or three days' snowboarding escort service in ten resorts, dedicated snowboard holidays, and free Burton test snowboards in Chamonix and Kaprun. Thomson (0990 329329) features free ski/snowboard swap rental valid throughout the week, in all its resorts, and offers Thomson FreeRider snowboard escorts for two hours per day in eight resorts. Neilson (0990 994 444) offers snowboard escorts in four resorts and ski/snowboard swaps in certain resorts. Inghams (0181-780 4444) has no snowboard escorts but offers a ski/snowboard swap programme, with some restrictions, in many of its resorts. Airtours (01706 232324) does not offer snowboard escorts or ski/snowboard swap but does have a chalet in Les Deux Alpes exclusively for snowboarders. First Choice (0990 557755) has no snowboard escorts and its ski/snowboard swap is available only as part of a tuition package.

Where camp means cool

Chris Gill learns to snowboard alongside other grown-ups

WHEN, in the late 1960s, Harry Evans and his colleagues on *The Sunday Times* defied impending middle age and learnt to ski, they celebrated their triumph by writing an evangelistic skiers' manual, *We Learned to Ski*. To me and my mates, lacking the patience to attend ski school, it was gospel.

Perhaps I should now write a sequel: *I Learned to Snowboard*. Which I did, after years of finding excuses, last winter. Like Mr Evans *et al*, I'm old enough, at 47, to consider this something of an achievement. Like them, I'm sufficiently hooked to want to spread the word. And now, as then, there is a culture gap putting people off.

When Mr Evans was writing, non-skiers were inclined to perceive skiers as elitist, snobbish and fashion-driven. Now, non-boarding skiers have boarders down as rebellious, undisciplined and fashion-driven. Oh, and irritatingly young.

Which explains the appeal, to an experienced forty-something skier with wife, children and mortgage, of a new American idea: boarding "camps" for grown-ups, where you can be taught in small groups containing not a single teenager. Just the ticket. Or "cool", as we boarders say.

> 'We were offered nappies to wear'

I signed up for a Delaney Snowboarding Camp on the last two days of a short trip to Colorado, after a couple of days on skis — having fun before the serious business of learning.

The first-night rendezvous in Vail was encouraging: comfortable soft boots with step-in bindings were issued, and conveniently short boards. What is more, the camp was composed as promised, with people between 25 and 55.

I was one of 12 beginners making up two thirds of the group, the others ranging from near-beginners to one near-expert. The group was male dominated, but overall the camps attract as many women as men. (There are women-only camps a couple of times a season.)

Next morning did not go quite so smoothly: the huge padded "nappies" that we were offered to minimise tail damage were too small to fit over my skiing pants, and too thick to fit inside them. So I ventured out with only knee pads (desirable) and wrist guards (essential).

And so to Eagle's Nest, at the top of the Lionshead gondola, where there is a nursery slope with soft snow and a reassuringly slow chair-lift. Once on the board I rediscovered the fear that as a skier I thought I had put behind me for ever: that of the fall line. I was reminded that nursery slopes need to be virtually flat. And I confirmed that falls in the early stages are inescapable and painful. Especially without a nappy.

And we weren't falling as much as most. Delaney camps provide you with the Delaney Quick Stick, with knobs on the end, which you can use to keep your balance, to prop yourself up, and to push yourself off the ground after a fall — not easy when you are facing downhill.

By the end of the camp, I had dispelled the myth that boarding is more quickly learnt than skiing. Considering that three or four of us were getting close attention from one coach, our progress was far from spectacular.

My observation is that you make quicker progress at first on skis. But people tell me that once you can handle intermediate slopes on a board you can progress quickly to the point where you start to get a real buzz from the activity — a point that many skiers never really reach.

On day two, most of our beginners' group progressed from the nursery slope to green and blue runs. My own transition came late in the day, and may have been premature: before long, I executed the textbook Fall To Avoid — backwards, downhill, and on an appreciable slope. I don't know at what speed my head hit the ground, but I get a headache thinking about it.

SO I ENDED day two back on the nursery slope, struggling to make sure that I came away knowing that I can link a series of turns on a snowboard. I managed that, but only just. I rode the gondola down wishing that it was a three-day course. But next morning I was woken by the bruises on my bum, and changed my mind. Next time, I will take baggy trousers.

- *Chris Gill edits* Where to Ski and Snowboard *(Thomas Cook, £14.99). Readers of* The Times *can get a copy by post for £13.99, including p&p, and will also receive a free pair of Recco avalanche rescue aids, worth £12.95. Call 01373 834227 to order.*
- *Delaney Snowboarding has camps in Vail/Beaver Creek and Aspen/Snowmass this season. A two-day camp with meals and equipment costs £290 excluding lift pass and accommodation. Call 001 303 443 6868; fax 001 303 417 1077, or contact them at http://www.delaneysnowboard.com.*

CHRIS GILL

Down but not defeated: one of Delaney's students

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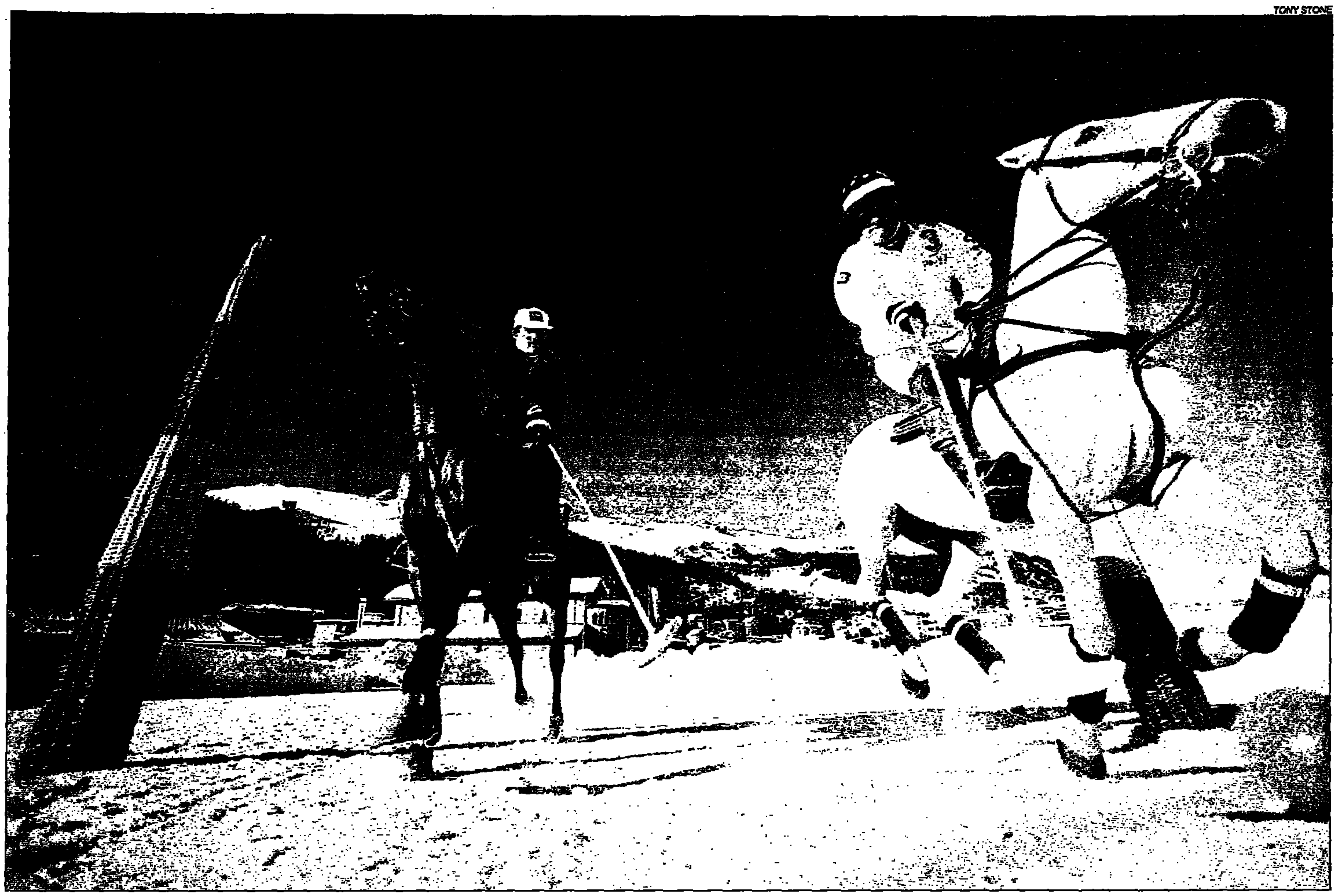
SKI WEEKEND: SWITZERLAND

The pleasures of pastures new

Doug Sager

explains why the country is unsurpassed


TONY STONE

Polo on the ice in St Moritz, where the skiing, classiness and location, overlooking the beautiful frozen lake of the Engadine, are unbeatable. Even its mountain dining is good

The Eiger is not for the faint of heart. When our Grindelwald guide suggested an ascent, I did blanch slightly. But this is no-fear, no-ropes, no-risk climbing: we are going up the civilised, Swiss way — by train. A group of mostly intermediate holiday skiers, we are led by the Eiger expert Ueli Frei.

Skis in hand and shouldering rucksacks crammed with climbing skins, bread, wine and chocolate, we clamber sleepily on board the Jungfrau Railway. The Grindelwald platform is jammed with Japanese. On board, the seats are packed with ample American bottoms. Tourists from all over the world join us on this early-morning run, and why not: it is probably the most stunning sightseeing journey you can make anywhere in Europe.

We pass right through the Eiger itself and eventually emerge at Europe's highest railway terminus, the Jungfraujoch station at 3,454m. Here are views over the flat crevasse fields of the 22km-long Aletsch glacier, the longest in the Alps.

We click into our bindings and ski off from the top, the only ones to do so. It is possible to ski all the way down the Aletsch glacier to the Rhône Valley. But Ueli has chosen a more interesting route. After the steep wall of the Jungfraujoch we come to some good powder fields en route to the famous Konkordiaplätz. But then it is time to adjust skis and bindings for a long climb up to the Hollandia hut.

From there it is a romp of unbridled pleasure. We ski easy powder slopes and then flatter pastures where the snow has transformed to spring conditions, the kind which begs your skis to go faster and forgives errors. Down the Lötschen valley, past summer barns and century-old chalets, we ski.

This is the joy of skiing in Switzerland: uphill transport and infrastructure unparalleled anywhere in the world, downhill and cross-country touring itineraries through uninhabited or even true wilderness terrain. Even though it is expensive — the Grindelwald-Jungfraujoch return costs £59 — it is worth it. Upmarket tour operators claim bookings to Swiss resorts so far this season have more than doubled. And Crystal is advertising the lowest Swiss prices for five years. If you have ever wanted to ski in Switzerland, then, thanks to currency swings of more than 30 per cent in the past two years, this winter is your chance.

JUNGFRAU REGION

From Grindelwald the Jungfrau Railway has been running up to 3,454m since 1912. One wonders what the environmental lobby would say to such a proposal today.

None of the Jungfrau resorts — Grindelwald, Wengen and Mürren — have been blessed with deep snowfalls in recent years. But Grindelwald is a mountaineering centre with a heritage second only to Chamonix. Wengen is a village I adore. You arrive by train, and the village is small enough to walk around on foot in minutes. The hotels are old, and some even have libraries with 19th-century English books.

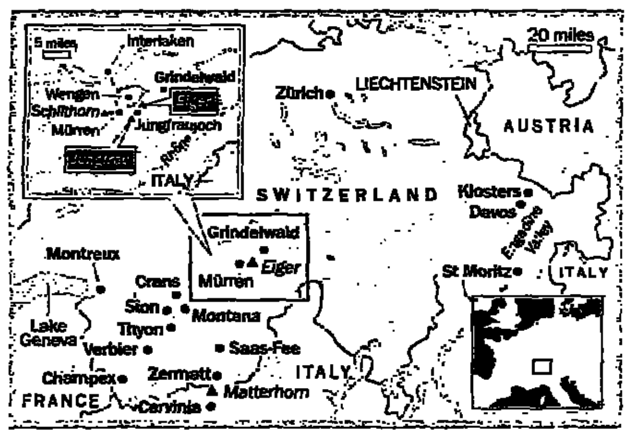
Mürren is even smaller. Also inaccessible by road, it boasts the last word in kitsch, chocolate-box chalets. There is good skiing up on the Schilthorn, but as in Wengen the mountains are more impressive to look at than to ski. There are few better resorts for ambience and a legacy of skiing tradition than those of the Jungfrau. Henry Lunn is said to have invented the package ski holiday here in 1910, and his son Arnold merits a statue in Mürren for founding the Kandahar Ski Club and slalom racing there in 1922.

ZERMATT AND ST MORITZ

These two resorts are arguably the two most famous in the world. In my view, there is no contest: St Moritz is the winner, with better skiing, more class and even better mountain dining, never mind the Cresta Run and polo on ice. Where Zermatt is set in a dismal rocky valley with only the Matterhorn to look at, St Moritz sits high on a sunny shelf overlooking a frozen lake in what is generally acknowledged to be the most beautiful valley in the Alps, the Engadine.

But there is no reason not to ski them both, connected as they are by the Glacier Express railway with its new glass-walled observation cars. British winter tourists, the first in the world, were already installed in St Moritz the winter before Edward Whymper made his ascent of the Matterhorn in Zermatt. Since then the burghers of Zermatt have been counting on the Matterhorn to keep climbers of all classes coming.

Exploitation is nothing new in Zermatt. When the ruling burghers wanted to build the five-star Zermatterhof Hotel last century, they passed legislation forcing every inhabitant of the village to put in hard labour. For years Zermatt has claimed all the lifts on the Italian side of the border in Cervinia, even though the Zermatt lift pass did not include Cervinia's skiing. Now there is a true Zermatt-Cervinia weekly ski pass. Bought in Zermatt this six-day pass costs £151. Bought in Cervinia, but not covering those Zermatt sectors which you can only reach with ground transport, the Cervinia-Zermatt version costs only £122.



KLOSTERS/DAVOS

Although Klosters becomes famous each winter when the Prince of Wales comes skiing, this area is far lesser known in Britain than it was in the days when Arthur Conan Doyle wrote of his pioneering ski tours there in 1894 when Davos had 400 British residents. Having little choice about when the roads would be open to leave, Britons in those days stayed the entire winter.

The Parsenn snowfields still have some of the best open off-piste skiing in the world. True, Davos is a city, but one with charming lakeside views and top-notch shopping. Klosters is a one-horse town, with a highway through it, but the people are friendly, and you can buy vintage champagne in the village shop.

VERBIER

Verbier's skiing may have shrunk (see story below) but Verbier still gets my vote for most improved, and improving, resort in the Alps. Signposting, piste grooming and snowmaking on routes down to the village are now first class. The central square sports a new fountain and wide pedestrian areas where it was previously difficult to walk without being run over by cars. Unfortunately, locals seem to think the latter are parking areas. And there's nothing the resort can do about the loud Britons who've been following Fergie to the Farm Club. But just wait until next winter — 1998-1999 — when the new Tortin eight-person telecabine starts running. That will be when Verbier's far sunnier skiing puts its only rival for the best easily-accessed off piste in the Alps — Val d'Isère — in the shade for ever.

HOW TO BOOK

Switzerland Tourism has commercialised its travel information and booking services under the name of the Switzerland Travel Centre, a fully bonded agency selling air and rail tickets as well as package holidays. For information and for the booklet Switzerland the Winter Paradise ring 0171-734 1921; for sales ring 0171-734 4578.

Mainstream tour operators have limited programmes in Switzerland. First Choice lists no Swiss resorts. Neilson (0990 994444) and Airtours (01706 232324) feature only Verbier, while Thomson (0990 329329) limits choice to Verbier, Zermatt and the Jungfrau. Inghams (0181-780 4444) has the most resorts, 12. Crystal (0181-399 5144) has tripled its Swiss programme this winter, for a total of nine resorts.

In Verbier, Flexiski (0171-352 0044) is the choice for short breaks, with hotels and chalets. Ski Esprit (01252 616789) has three non-smoking chalets there and the best child-minding guarantee in the industry, while Simply Ski (0181-742 2541) has Verbier's widest selection of distinctive chalets.

In Zermatt, Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202) is the leader in luxury and service. Club Med (0171-581 1161) offers lively, all-inclusive packages to five Swiss resorts. The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) brings its royal standards of service to only one Swiss resort, Klosters. Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) is the pre-eminent British firm in Grindelwald, with excellent guiding programmes there and elsewhere in Switzerland. Kuoni (01306-742500) is a Swiss company booking holidays in 19 resorts, but with no in-resort service.

Verbier tumbles from the summit

SWITZERLAND'S biggest ski area has shrunk. Verbier's Four Valleys skipass region this winter drops from first to third place among Swiss resorts skiable on a single lift ticket, losing a quarter of its skiing terrain in the process, *Doug Sager writes.*

For the first time, Four Valleys skipasses will not include the Thyon and Champex-Lac sectors. Thyon has dropped out of the Four Valleys following a dispute this summer over revenue sharing. Champex-Lac has new owners who have removed it from the Four Valleys network.

According to official figures released by Televerbier, the Verbier lift company, a Four Valleys skipass will this year cover only 290km of pistes and 68 ski lifts. These new figures put Verbier's Four Valleys third in size of Swiss skiing regions, behind the St Moritz region — which claims 350km of pistes — and also behind the Klosters-Davos region, which claims 315km of skiing.

What is worse, an all-areas Four Valleys skipass, including the Mont Fort glacier, will cost exactly the same this year as last — SF282 (£123) for six days.

All British tour operators' brochures continue to advertise Verbier's Four Valleys as encompassing 400km of pistes and 100 ski lifts. Neither the Ski Club of Great Britain nor any of the top ten tour operators featuring Verbier contacted this week knew anything about the change.

A spokesman for Crystal, which is promoting the opportunity to win a free chalet in Verbier this winter, said that callers booking holidays would be informed of Verbier's reduced skiing possibilities, and that future brochure additions would be amended. He added that no refunds on prebooked Four Valleys ski passes would be issued, since Verbier has not reduced skipass prices to match its shrinking terrain.

Verbier is now a shrunken resort

Skiers dreading the Saturday chaos at Geneva airport will have a faster option to reach the resorts of Zermatt, Saas-Fee, Crans-Montana and Verbier this winter.

Scheduled Crossair flights leave Heathrow at 8.35am on Saturdays from December 20 until March 28 for Sion airport. Transfers, costing £10 each way, have been arranged from Sion to the above resorts. Return flights will leave Sion each Saturday at 1.20pm.

Savings in transfer times are dramatic: 30 minutes to Crans-Montana, instead of two and a half hours; 90 minutes to Zermatt, instead of three hours. Including airport taxes, return flights start at £168. Some Saturdays are already fully booked. For flight and transfer information, call the Switzerland Travel Centre (0171-734 4578).

If you must brave Geneva airport on a Saturday, it is at least easier to reach now that Neilson (0990 994444) is chartering an extra 220-seat Airbus 321. The plane will fly on Saturday afternoons from Gatwick to Geneva on certain dates from the new year.

Ski insurance, page 51

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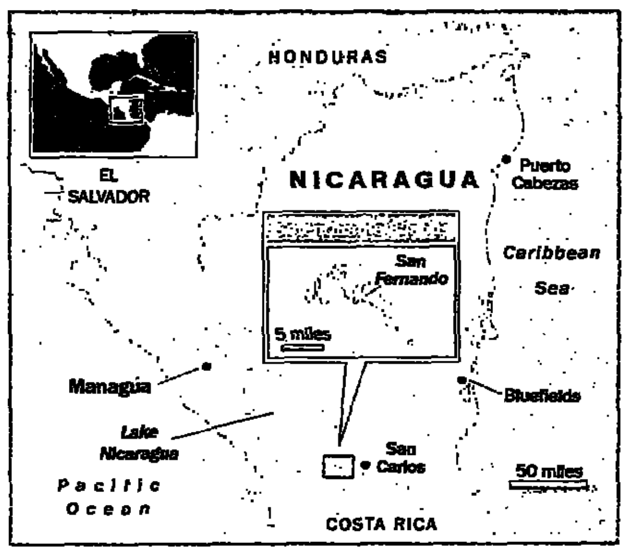
Few ripples on this golden pond

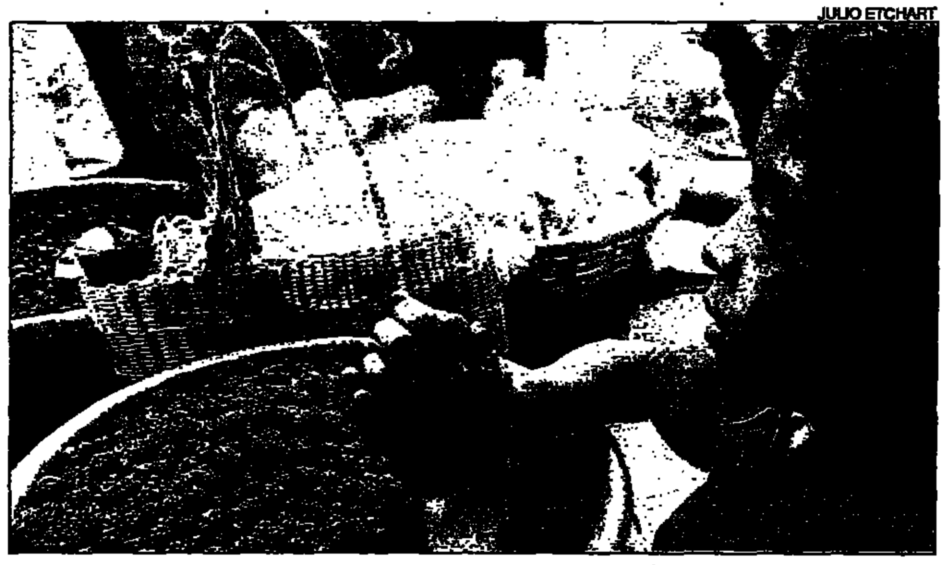
JULIO ETCHART

The dugout ferry service from the Nicaraguan mainland to the Solentiname Islands, 30-odd islets of pine and balsa trees peopled by artists and craftsmen, fishermen and farmers, Below, a girl selling berries

The Solentiname Islands, at the southern end of Lake Nicaragua, have emerged from the Somoza dictatorship to become a haven of peace, says **Edward Marriott**



JULIO ETCHART



"Come stay with me," the fat man ordered, squeezing my thigh. "I am very famous on the islands. I know everyone." He hadn't shaved in days and smelt like rotten vegetables. "Well?" he slurred, as the small ferryboat pitched again suddenly, hurling passengers against each other. "Is decided?"

I grunted, as non-committally as I could. The truth was that I planned just a couple of days here, and was looking for a guest house, somewhere agreeably anonymous in which to hole up and rest.

The Solentiname Islands, at the southern end of Lake Nicaragua, sounded like a rare haven in this rough-edged country. Though they had played a crucial role in the Sandinista uprising against the Somoza dictatorship in the late 1970s, they were now, I was told, Nicaragua's answer to *On Golden Pond* — 30-odd islets of pine and balsa trees, peopled by artists and craftsmen, fishermen and farmers — and were friendly, hospitable and relaxed.

The only problem was that, as we came closer, my would-be host became more and more forceful. "You will come with me. There are no hotels here. You have no choice." I looked around the boat, hoping for assistance, but the other passengers averted their eyes, feigning interest in their sacks of vegetables and rice, brought over from the mainland four hours earlier. When we landed on San Fernando Island and the fat man alighted, shouting at me to follow, I kept my head down. Eventually, after an interminable wait, we pulled slowly away.

"So where *do* you think you're going to stay?" said the driver, a young man in a battered sombrero. He pointed at the empty boat: everyone had disembarked; in my determination to avoid the fat man's hospitality, I had given no thought to where I would end up.

"There's no guest house?"

"Well, no. There's a hotel, but there are no guests and it's closed." He paused; a cormorant passed low overhead, a glop of guano just missing the bow. "I know," he said. "Why don't you stay with me?"

José Pineda, my host and saviour, was an artist, who supplemented his living as a carver of balsa wood birds by running weekly ferry trips to and from San Carlos on the mainland. He was 27 and married with a one-year-old daughter.

Every day we would eat together: rice and beans, the occasional egg. Every evening, while his wife and baby slept, he would lie in his hammock in his underpants and watch his battery-powered black and white television. Programmes from Costa Rica, ten miles south, were interspersed with advertisements for shampoo, cars and packaged baby food — all unaffordable luxuries on Solentiname.

Seven days, which had initially seemed a formidable stretch of time, passed effortlessly. For much of the day I would wander the island paths, talking to whoever I met, listening to stories, absorbing the islands' explosive history.

For everyone, October 1977, when islanders, men and women, attacked the San Carlos army base, was the defining moment in their destiny. Retribution swiftly followed; Somoza's soldiers were helicoptered in, burning houses to the ground and destroying the library and church. Those who had taken part in the assault on San Carlos fled to Costa Rica to return two years later when the Sandinistas finally overthrew the dictatorship.

It is impossible now to envisage these pacific islanders as fearsome, khaki-clad revolutionaries. Those who bore arms have now returned to the fields. José, like many other men too young to participate in the San Carlos assault, was recruited into the Sandinista army in the mid-1980s and spent three years away from the islands.

EDWARD MARRIOTT

The renowned artist, Rosa Pineda, in her studio

Like every good Nicaraguan socialist at the time, he was trained partly in Cuba. Now, he says, as we stride out across the island to collect chillies from his uncle's chilli tree, he will never leave. "I run the ferry. I'm important here."

His army training and war experiences have also made him a good deal more cosmopolitan than many of his fellow islanders. His father was the youngest of 17 children — José is one of 11 — and one afternoon one of his many cousins explained to me marital relations, Solentiname-style. His wife watched us, mumbling shyly and only when I turned to her.

"You are faithful?" José's cousin asked me, when I explained that I, like him, was married.

"Yes. You?"

"No man here are faithful."

"You have lovers? How many?"

He giggled, turned to his wife. "Oh," he shrugged, "I've lost count."

"And what about you?" I asked his wife, who didn't seem particularly perturbed by these confidences. "No, it is not allowed," she said.

The contrast with José's sister Rosa, a well-travelled painter, could not have been greater. Though she, like other islanders, lived in a simple wood and corrugated iron shack, and bathed every morning at the lake shore, her splendid and distinctive pointillist works have won many international prizes, and she spent the final years of Somoza's regime hiding with other Nicaraguan socialists in Costa Rica.

The future, she believed, depended on *desarollo* — development — a word which I discovered was much in favour throughout the islands. She said: "We are well known internationally — people have heard of the poems of Padre Ernesto Cardenal, who founded the artistic community on Solentiname — but we are still isolated." And so, she says, the answer is tourism. "Who could want to stay in a more beautiful place than this?"

For the Solentiname fishermen — the walls of their houses hung with jawbones of the freshwater bullshark and sawshark, both, until recently, abundant in the lake — the future is still more uncertain, and is unlikely to be improved by an influx of tourists. In the 1970s, the islands had ten fishermen, one tells me. "Now, there are 70, and we are running out of fish."

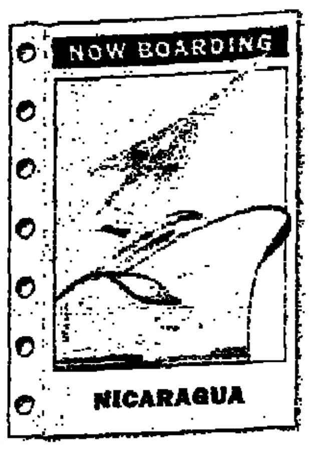
> 'You have lovers? How many?' 'Oh, I've lost count'

If this is the case, the abundance in the past must have been breathtaking. One morning, in the rain, José and I went fishing. With a circular, lead-weighted net, thrown, allowed to sink, and gathered in, we caught ten fish in as many minutes — enough for three meals. These were "machaca", with flesh like a juicy snapper, and which, salted and dried, form the fishermen's main income. For me, they made a welcome change from the endless rice and beans.

All in all, the most unsettling aspect to the week was the sight of the fat man, lying in wait for me whenever I took the path that ran near his house. I would wait until I could hear his snoring, then start to tiptoe past, but invariably he would wake with a start and yell lustily at me to stop. Hadn't I changed my mind? Surely I could spend just a couple of days in his house?

When, each time, I refused, he would disappear to a back room and re-emerge with a rough-hewn pebble, the size of a box of matches. "Indian axehead, from the times before Columbus." His breath smelt like dead iguana. "Yours for twenty dollars." Even paradise has its cowboys.

● *Edward Marriott flew to Managua, via Miami, on Iberia, courtesy of Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315).*



Who goes there: Hardy backpackers, Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign volunteers, missionaries, a handful of nervous Americans.

Getting the ball rolling: Nicaragua's embassy in London recently closed, but the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 (0171-272 9619) has a good book service and offers sound advice.

Perfect timing: The driest time (and the cheaper flights) is November to March, though the Caribbean Sea is hot and wet all year.

Suitcase strategy: Take: the lightest clothing — for cooler, highland areas, one sweatshirt maximum. Outside Managua, it is near-impossible to buy items such as suncream and chocolate, so take what you need. No good English bookshops, so bring Graham Greene. Bring back: Flor de Cana rum, Nicaragua's finest export, and only £2.50 a bottle.

The pound in your pocket: Best to take travellers' cheques in US dollars; $1 is roughly equal to $1 Cordoba. Take some dollars in cash, too, as moneychangers are easier to find than banks. Visa is the most widely accepted credit card. Eating is cheap — 80p for chicken, rice and beans from a street vendor — as is bus travel: a 100-mile journey costs about £2.50.

Turn of phrase: Unless you are on the Atlantic Coast, English is next to useless. Learn Latin American Spanish before going. Nicaraguans talk fast, dropping their "Ss." So, "*mas despacio, por favor*" (more slowly, please) should prove invaluable.

Big no-nos: Looking too American. Ever since Reagan's funding of the Contras during the Nicaraguan civil war, anyone wearing a loud plaid shirt has had an unfriendly reception.

Nasty surprises: Managua, the world's least likely capital city. Destroyed in an earthquake in 1972, the centre of the old capital consists of large patches of open ground; of the high-rises, only the Hotel Intercontinental remains.

An island church

Not to be missed: Lake Nicaragua, the largest body of fresh water in Central America, and home to the voracious freshwater bull shark.

Dull but essential: A 90-day visa costs $10 on arrival at Managua airport. Update all immunisations. Malaria tablets considered essential. Consult your GP.

Any good packages? Package tourism and Nicaragua are not mutually compatible, but Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) offers a 30-day escorted trip taking in Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua (six days), Honduras and Guatemala, from £1,425 per person excluding accommodation in budget hotels and food (allow a further £600). Next departure: March 14, 1998.

Way to go: Iberia (0171-830 0011) flies to Managua from Heathrow, from £580; American Airlines (0181-572 5555) flies from Heathrow from £667; and Continental (0800 776467) flies from Gatwick from £696. Prices for return flights, including tax.

Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108) can also arrange flights. Sample prices: from £541 with American; from £525 with Continental; from £562 with Iberia, excluding tax.

EDWARD MARRIOTT

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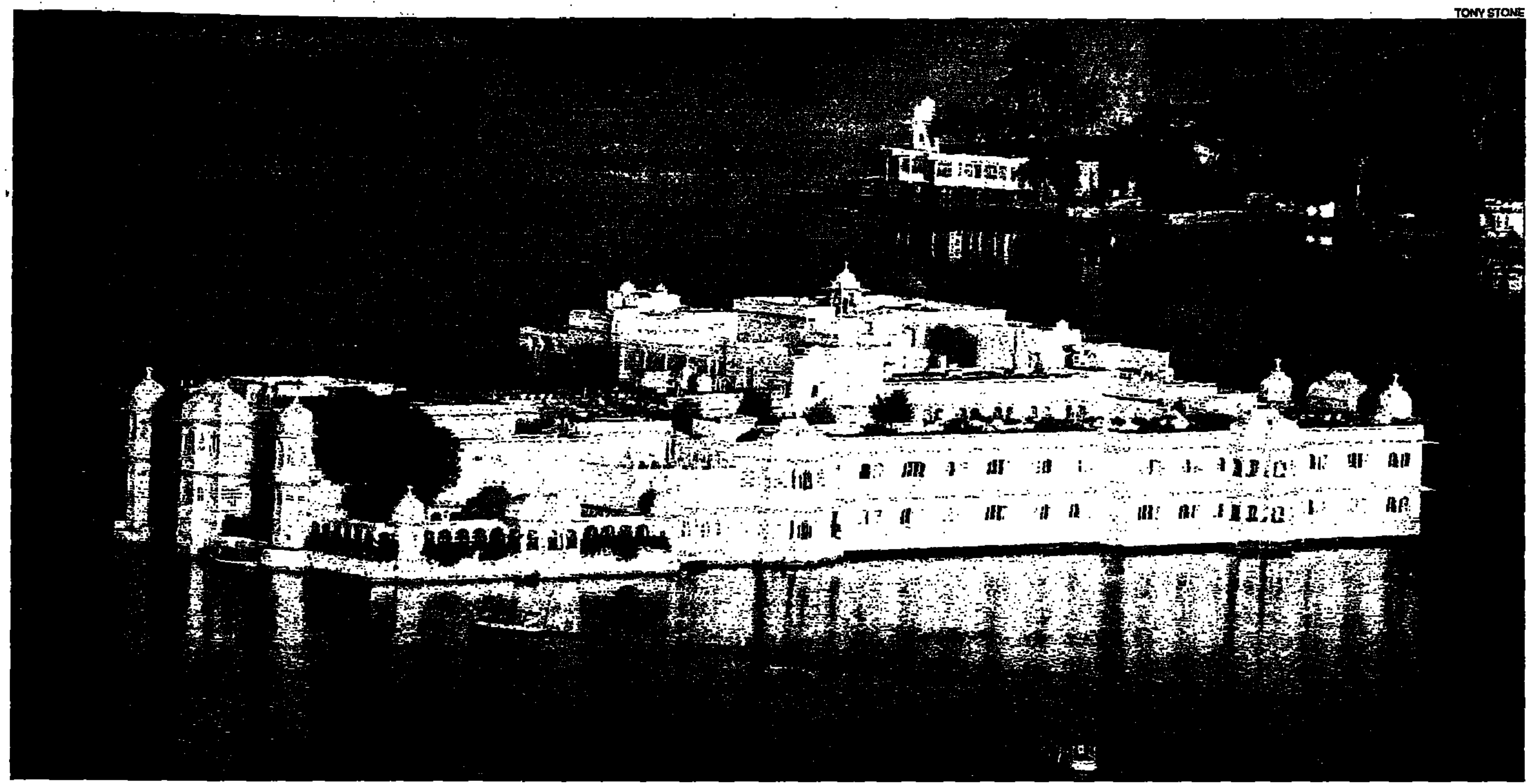
William Hague and Ffion Jenkins should enjoy their honeymoon – paparazzi permitting, says **Patricia Ford**

TONY STONE



The Lake Palace in Udaipur is popular with honeymooners and celebrities. Roger Moore stayed here during the filming of Octopussy and the staff are still talking about it

Romance is all the Raj

The news is out — William Hague and Ffion Jenkins are to spend part of their honeymoon at one of the world's most magical hotels: the Lake Palace in Udaipur, in the Indian state of Rajasthan.

But, first, a confession. Last month, on a tour of Rajasthan, land of the maharajas, I got sick of palace hotels — weird, wonderful, so desperately inconvenient — and was thrilled to arrive at the Lake Palace and find myself in a *thoroughly corporate* room. Boring? Not what purists expect from India? It was bliss!

There were two beds — thankfully there was just one of me — a wardrobe with proper hangers, a wondrous bathroom with more *goodies than it's possible to* mention here, a ginormous television where I could fall asleep to CNN, having first feasted on three kinds of nuts thoughtfully packaged in a *box and left on the coffee table.* No clock though. Very inconvenient, that. My watch had packed up.

Yet except for the view — shimmering Lake Pichola (how disappointing to discover it's man-made) a chug-chug little ferry and *the Shiv Niwas* Palace Hotel, beyond — I could have been in any top business hotel in the world.

I'm only guessing, mind — no one's telling — but I would expect Will and Ffion to be disporting themselves in the sumptuous *Kush Mahal suite where the* windows are made of glass mosaic and where, lying on the bed, you can see the reflection of the lake on the ceiling. *So* romantic . . . or as *the brochure less coyly puts it:* "In this well-loved room one can feel the aura of passion left behind by hundreds of honeymooners." (So good luck Will, and never mind the prudes who've been muttering that you've been having your *honeymoon before the wedding.)*

Wandering through the white marble Lake Palace is a dreamlike experience. Can this place be real? Water, water, everywhere, including a blue marble pool created, it is whispered, for the private frolics of a *princess, slender carved* columns, fountains, filigreed screens . . .

One niggle. Why do the chaps who service the rooms arrive just *as I'm stepping out of the bath in* readiness for 7.30 dinner. On *both* nights! On a more positive note, a friend who had misguidedly opened her windows and was appalled to find, on her return, the room full of pigeons, had nothing *but praise for the way they so* efficiently — "gallantly", she insists — dealt with the intruders.

Dinner at the Lake Palace is a treat. On the first night we ate in their smart restaurant. Don't laugh now — it's help yourself. An *army of silver tureens is laid out* on white-clothed tables, each one clearly labelled, a nice touch that, so that you can dip into whatever you like: fancy rice; spicy meat *dishes; exotic vegetables, chutneys* and so on. And, such a relief for a wino like me, lots of decent wine. Should that be noteworthy? Yes. Rajasthan's not a wine-drinking state. Clued-up friends, I later discover, bring their own wine boxes.

What *is* noteworthy is breakfast. There's almost as much choice as at dinner, including my favourite porridge, and orange and pineapple juice labelled "canned" for those wary of Delhi Belly.

And what about the paparazzi? Can Will and his bride enjoy the Lake Palace in peace? I only ask, because no one asked me why I was climbing aboard the Lake Palace ferry or even checked my room number. And when I spent an hour by the pool I noticed a lot of day-tripperish people floating around and found it disconcerting to be peered at as I lay there in my *bikini.*

But they're used to their celebs and one likes to think they guard their privacy well. Roger Moore swanned around here during the making of *Octopussy* and they're still talking about him. Yet in spite *of its beauty and sense of unreality*, the Lake Palace is not quite the mystical India of my imagination.

● *Greaves Travel (0171-487 9111) offers India tours, including a ten-day trip visiting Delhi, Agra and the Taj Mahal, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur, where two nights are spent at the Lake Palace Hotel. The price starts at £1,282 per person including flights.*

Winter sun rises even earlier

THE MAJOR package holiday operators brought out their winter sun brochures this week — for *next* winter. It is the earliest they have ever appeared — normally they are published in February — and operators are offering discounts for those who book during the next few months.

First Choice has £100 reductions for couples as well as cheaper group prices and free child places *for holidays booked before the end* of the year. A spokesman said: "We've decided to go early because increasingly people are booking holidays well in advance."

Thomson is offering £100 off European holidays and £200 off long-haul trips under its Early Bird discount scheme. "We've had success with launching our summer *brochures early, so we're* trying the same with our winter trips," said a spokesman.

AIRTOURS, which has £100 reductions on holidays booked by couples before February 28, says it has found that one in four customers returning from holidays immediately rebook the same trips for the next year — hence the need for brochures to be early.

Travel agents, however, complain that launching brochures so far in advance causes customers confusion. A spokeswoman for Thomas Cook said: "It's easy for people visiting our shops to get mixed up about which brochures are for which seasons. It's ridiculous to expect people to be planning trips so far in the future."

Another problem dogging travel agents is where to find space for *the brochures, with wall racks* already packed at most shops. "We're having to stock new editions in a back room," said the manager of Sky Travel, an independent agent based in Barnes in southwest London.

But ABTA, the Association of British Travel Agents, which represents both tour operators and travel agents, believes that the benefits outweigh the costs. A spokeswoman said: "The earlier people are able to book, the better, *because it normally means there* are incentives like cash reductions and free places for children."

TOM CHESSHYRE

Take a holiday out of this world

Tom Chesshyre starts saving up for a £200,000 flight to Mars

DREAMING of a trip to *Mars? If so, the good news is* that there is now a guide-book with helpful hints on the best craters to visit. The bad news is that there may be the odd flight delay — commercial flights are not expected for *several hundred years.*

The Travellers' Guide To Mars claims to be the world's first Mars guide book. Written as a spoof, it has sections on passport and visa requirements, clocks and calendars, *nightlife and where to stay.*

The publishers came up with the idea after the widespread publicity surrounding NASA's Pathfinder mission this year and thought a book would be "*a bit of fun*".

The guide (slogan: "don't leave earth without it") is also packed with a considerable amount of serious astronomical information. For example, a return trip to Mars is 309 million miles and takes six months each way on a spaceship travelling at 59,300 mph.

JPL-HO REUTERS

The Sojourner Rover on cold, dusty, oxygen-starved Mars

Astro-scientists *have* estimated that a return ticket would cost £200,000, although, at this stage, there are not even plans to send an astronaut.

The holiday would not suit timid travellers: temperatures drop to as low as -200F: there is practically no oxygen and the air is thick with a choking dust.

On the plus side, the book *claims there are "rock festivals"* and no shortage of drinking water, although it is usually frozen.

Dana Facaros and Michael *Pauls*, the authors, received help from the British Interplanetary Association so the astronomical facts should be spot on.

A spokesman for Cadogan said: "There are Internet companies *selling* property on Mars now. Who knows, perhaps Mars travel is not that far away after all."

● *The Traveller's Guide to Mars* (Cadogan, £4.99).

Trials of a reluctant rambler

"I can't pretend I actually enjoyed the trip," said Bill Bryson at a reading of *A Walk In The Woods*, his new book describing his 870-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail. "We walked about ten miles a day and were constantly knackered — by the end, *it was hell.*"

Surprisingly, given the enormous success of his books, Bryson has always been a reluctant traveller. Last year, he was the country's best-selling author: *Notes From A Small Island* — in which Bryson, in typical tongue-in-cheek style, describes a journey around Britain — has now sold more than one *million copies.* Needless to say, his Times/Dillons Forum reading of *A Walk in the Woods* in London last Tuesday was a sell-out.

The Appalachian Trail stretches 2,200 miles from *Georgia to* Maine. "It was terrifying. One night I heard this strange noise outside my tent and discovered something that looked awfully like a bear staring at me," he said.

The idea for the trip came after Bryson, an American who has worked as a journalist in Britain (including a stint on *The Times*), recently moved home from the Yorkshire Dales to New Hampshire with his English wife and family. His new house happened to be near the Appalachian Trail. "I had bills to pay, so I decided to go for it," he said.

Bryson's hiking partner is Stephen Katz, *an old school* buddy who had previously *joined him* for a backpacking jaunt across Europe. This was written up in *Neither Here Nor There*, and Katz has since gained cult status among Bryson fans — mainly because of his comically-obnoxious personal *habits.* "*I exaggerate* his character for humorous *effect,*" admitted Bryson.

Some believe Bryson spiced up the characters in *A Walk in the Woods*. Particular doubt surrounds Mary Ellen, whose complaints about their camping gear and body odour prompt Bryson *and Katz to* ditch her. "She wasn't exactly as I describe her," admitted Bryson. "But after four days with the woman, it certainly felt like an accurate description."

Bryson is now considering his next book, possibly on *Australia. He says his favourite* holiday destination is the Seychelles ("beautiful beaches"), and his least favourite Hammerfest in Norway ("there was nothing to do"). His best bit of travel advice is *to* "take old clothes and ditch them when they get dirty".

This week's reading *had* Bryson's fans in fits of laughter and afterwards there was an hour-and-a-half queue for signed copies. "He's just an ordinary guy with a wicked sense of humour," said John Lee, *24*, from Guildford, Surrey, who was in the queue. "*I can't wait for his next book.*"

● *A Walk In The Woods* (£16.99, Doubleday)

TOM CHESSHYRE

ANDY FLACK

Just a regular guy: best-selling author Bill Bryson

PACK YOUR BAGS

☐ MEET Mickey for less money until December 17. For £125 per person when arriving between Sunday and Wednesday, Paris Travel Service (01992 456100) is offering three nights' B&B at the Sequoia Lodge, entrance admission to Disneyland Paris for the *length of the stay and return* ferry crossing, or Le Shuttle.

☐ THE Maldives is getting even better. Last month a new luxury resort, Kuda Huraa, opened on its own island 25 *minutes* by speedboat from Male'. Elegant Resorts (01244 897888) this month offers seven nights' B&B from £1,160 per person including flights.

☐ STOCK up for Christmas in Toronto. *Bales* Tours (01306 884397) is offering four nights' B&B at the Delta Chelsea *Inn Hotel, flights,* transfers, a tour of the city and optional excursion to Niagara Falls for £399.

☐ EXPLORE Worldwide (01252 319448) is offering 15 *days in Egypt*, including four days on a felluca from Luxor to Aswan, the Valley of the Kings and a visit to the Western Desert from £495 per person. Departures November 17: December 8, 15 and 29.

☐ WALKING in winter sun*shine in Majorca* is available through Headwater Holidays (01606 48699), leaving November 15 and 22. The eight-day B&B tour, based in Pollenca, costs from £496.

☐ CHRISTMAS Day on a *Sri* Lankan beach is available *through Unijet* (0990 336336), which is selling a two-week, all-inclusive holiday in Beruwela from £965, leaving December 16.

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London – Edinburgh	*from £58 Easyjet* (ex-Luton)	*£198 BA* (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
Manchester – Madrid	*£99 Iberia*	*£610 Iberia*
London – Munich	*£119 BA* (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	*from £138 Debonair* (ex-Luton)
London – New York	*from £178mw/£208we Icelandair* (ex-Heathrow)	*£844 BA* (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Paris	*£59mw/£69we BM* (ex-Heathrow)	*£216 BM* (ex-Heathrow)
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Notes

* mw-midweek; we-weekend.
* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which *do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or* cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.
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☐ SEE red-breasted geese, pygmy cormorants and great white egrets on a birdwatching holiday in Romania's *Danube Delta and Black Sea* coast organised by Naturetrek (01962 733051). The trip, departing November 22 from Heathrow, costs £895.

☐ FIVE nights in Bangkok has been reduced to £499 in November with Qantas Holi*days (0990 673464). The price* includes flights, transfers and accommodation.

☐ RUGBY fans who cannot get tickets for Wales v All Blacks at Wembley stadium on November 29 can buy a package to include one night's *B&B the night before, match* ticket and coach transfers to *Wembley*. Available for £99.95 through Superbreaks (01904 638973).

☐ PAGE & MOY (0116 250 7116) has several good offers this week. Two weeks' room-only at a three-star *hotel* in Montego Bay, in Jamaica, *departing November 17, costs* £379. A week's room-only at a three-star hotel in Malaga, departing November 16, costs £139.

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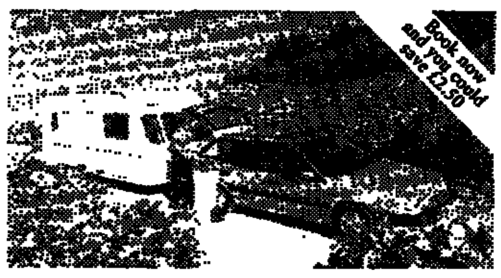

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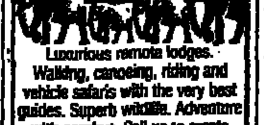

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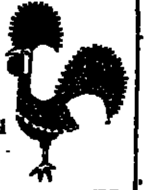

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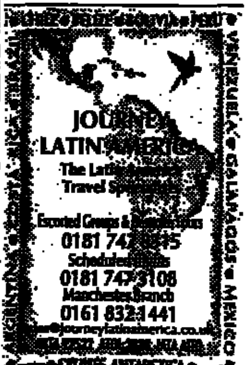

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AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Leave your skis at home

WALKING holidays in the Swiss Alps may appeal to non-skiers who fancy an active winter break set in magnificent snowy landscapes. Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717) has a seven-night holiday based at Meiringen which includes four days of guided walks on high mountain footpaths which are kept clear for walkers, returning by cable car if necessary. There are different temptations in the resort itself, which claims to be where meringues were invented.

Departures between January 30 and February 21 cost £695 for flights and half-board hotel accommodation.

■ **THE Booker prizewinning novel, *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy (Flamingo, £15.99), is set in Kerala, where the writer's family used to own a pickle-factory. The book will no doubt inspire holidaymakers to visit this beguiling southern Indian state which is renowned for its palm-fringed beaches, paddyfields, plantations and tranquil backwaters. The Indian specialist Greaves Travel (0171-487 9111) can organise a 12-day independent tour which includes Cochin, Periyar and a two-night backwater cruise for £1,315. This includes flights, full board on the cruise and hotel accommodation (room only). Kuoni (01306 742000) is offering a 14-night half-board tour of Kerala, starting and finishing in Goa, from £1,069, including flights.**

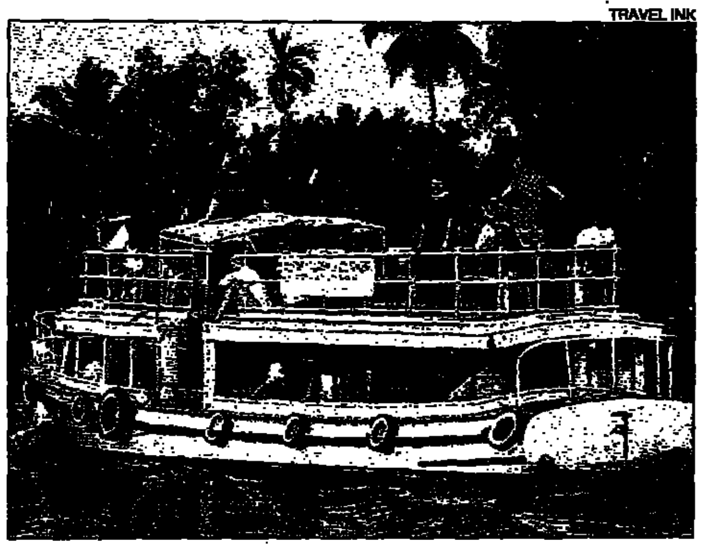
Rural Cyprus

TRADITIONAL houses and apartments have been restored with all mod cons and offered for holidaymakers' use by the Cyprus Association of Agrotourism. Most are in the tiny villages of the rugged Akamas peninsula and in the Troodos mountains where the village communities, which have been in on the restoration act from the beginning, promise a warm welcome. An apartment for two costs £70-£105 per week, or £10-£15 daily. Contact the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (0171-734 9822).

Royal waves

IN THE Middle Ages, when travelling was dangerous and tough, even princes took advantage of waterways where possible. One of central Europe's greatest arteries ran from Frankfurt to Vienna and beyond to Budapest along the valleys of the Danube and Main. This route, which was used by anyone of any consequence from the Emperor Charlemagne to the Habsburgs, is a window on to more than 1,000 years of central European history. It links many quiet medieval, Renaissance and Baroque villages and historic cities such as Würzburg, Bamberg and Regensburg. You can now travel all or part of the 700-odd miles of the "Road of Emperors and Kings" by car, bus, bike, train or ship. For information call the German Tourist Office (0171-493 0080) from 10am-noon and 2-4pm. For brochure requests, call 0891 600100.

TRAVEL INK



All aboard: around the backwaters of Kerala, southern India

China on ice

REGENT Holidays (0117-921 1711) has come up with some unusual winter holiday ideas. A week's tour of China in January and February includes a visit to the Ice Festival in Harbin in the far northeast, where the normally grey parks blaze with colour as fairy lights decorate the vast ice-carvings of famous Chinese and Western buildings, animals and mountain scenery, all in temperatures of -20C. The trip costs £790, which covers flights and sightseeing, three nights' B&B in Beijing and two in Harbin.

The Santa Isabel Hotel, splendidly situated on the edge of the old city of Havana, Cuba, has recently been upgraded to five-star status. Advertised in the still-socialist state with the slogan "a touch of nobility and class", it has prices to match, with a six-night holiday costing from £822 (including flights). Most accommodation in Havana is already fully booked for mid-January when the Pope is to visit the island.

An air price war between Russia and the Baltic republics has resulted in slashed prices: Regent can offer return fares with Finnair of £170 to Riga and Vilnius, and £180 to St Petersburg and Moscow from London and Manchester.

GAMMA

The Ice Festival in Harbin, northeast China, where famous Chinese and Western buildings are carved from ice

In to Africa

NAMIBIA is bidding to become a player in the safari and southern Africa holiday stakes, with several new tourist developments. A luxury train, the Desert Express, will operate from April 3 from the capital Windhoek to the coastal resort of Swakopmund, across the Namib, the world's oldest desert.

In Windhoek, the country's first five-star hotel, with a casino and convention centre, is to be built by 2004 at a cost of about £60 million. Mokuti airport, which serves Etosha, one of Africa's largest national parks, is closed for eight weeks so as to enlarge the runway to take bigger aircraft.

Namibia, perhaps better known for its landscapes and rock art than for its wildlife, already has a sound tourist infrastructure of roads, telecommunications and accommodation. It hopes to attract independent travellers and those on specialist tours. Contact the Namibia National Tourist Office (0171-636 2924).

■ **BUDGET travellers in *London* who reel at the price of hotels will welcome the YHA's three or six-night London Explorer packages, from £88 and £163 respectively per adult, and £63 and £113 for under-16s. Available until the end of March, they can be booked through Campus Travel (0171-730 3402). The price includes B&B in youth hostels at Hampstead, Rotherhithe and the newly opened St Pancras International, which overlooks the new British Library. Soon in the capital as a Christmas holiday treat will be KidsZones, a permanent exhibition where children can create their own bus designs and "steer" through the Underground system and much more. It opens at the London *Transport Museum* (0171-836 8557) in Covent Garden on *December 12. Admission for* adults will be £4.95; children *aged* 5-15, £2.95.**

Seven Canaries

ONCE upon a time there were only two Canary Islands that appeared on the package holiday map: Gran Canaria and Tenerife.

Then Lanzarote and windy Fuerteventura joined the tourism market. Now all seven islands are beginning to surface, although the final three tiny dots on the map tend to appear only in specialist companies' programmes on tailor-made itineraries.

The three newcomers are Gomera, where Columbus dallied with the Governor's widow on his last stop before discovering the New World; lush, green, little La Palma; and rugged Hierro, which calls itself the most westerly landfall in the Old World (eat your heart out, Iceland).

Mundi Color Holidays (0171-828 6021) can offer island-hopping alternatives. A ten-night trip with all flights and three nights' B&B in paradors on both La Palma and Hierro costs £859. The holiday also includes a three-night stay in the only parador in a volcanic crater, on Tenerife's Mount Teide — a world away from raucous coastal resorts.

Gomera is easily reached by ferry from Tenerife on a day trip.

■ **THE popular image of the chalet cook as a "husband-hunting super-Sloane" is no more. Now ski companies are looking for skilled people who are prepared to work hard. They have even been known to check the rubbish bins to make sure *their employees are not using* convenience foods, warns *Working in Ski Resorts* (Vacation Work, £10.99). *However*, there *will be other* jobs available in a season which looks buoyant this year. These include snow clearing, bar work, teaching English, working as a *plongeur* (washer-up in restaurants) and being a disc jockey. My own family's experience of writing off for jobs in *Vacation Work* publications has never been successful, but the information is invaluable.**

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

BBC Good Food SHOW
Wed 26 - Sun 30 November 1997
NEC Birmingham

Win a £10,000 kitchen

Today *The Times* has teamed up with the BBC Good Food Show to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a dream kitchen and a VIP day at the show.

The Robson Ward hand-painted kitchen, from their Town and Country Range, will be made-to-measure to the winner's requirements. During the VIP visit to the show Adrian Ward, founder of the company, will work out a detailed plan.

The winner can choose from a range of materials for work surfaces including granite, wood or laminate and decide on cupboard shapes, doorhandles and trims.

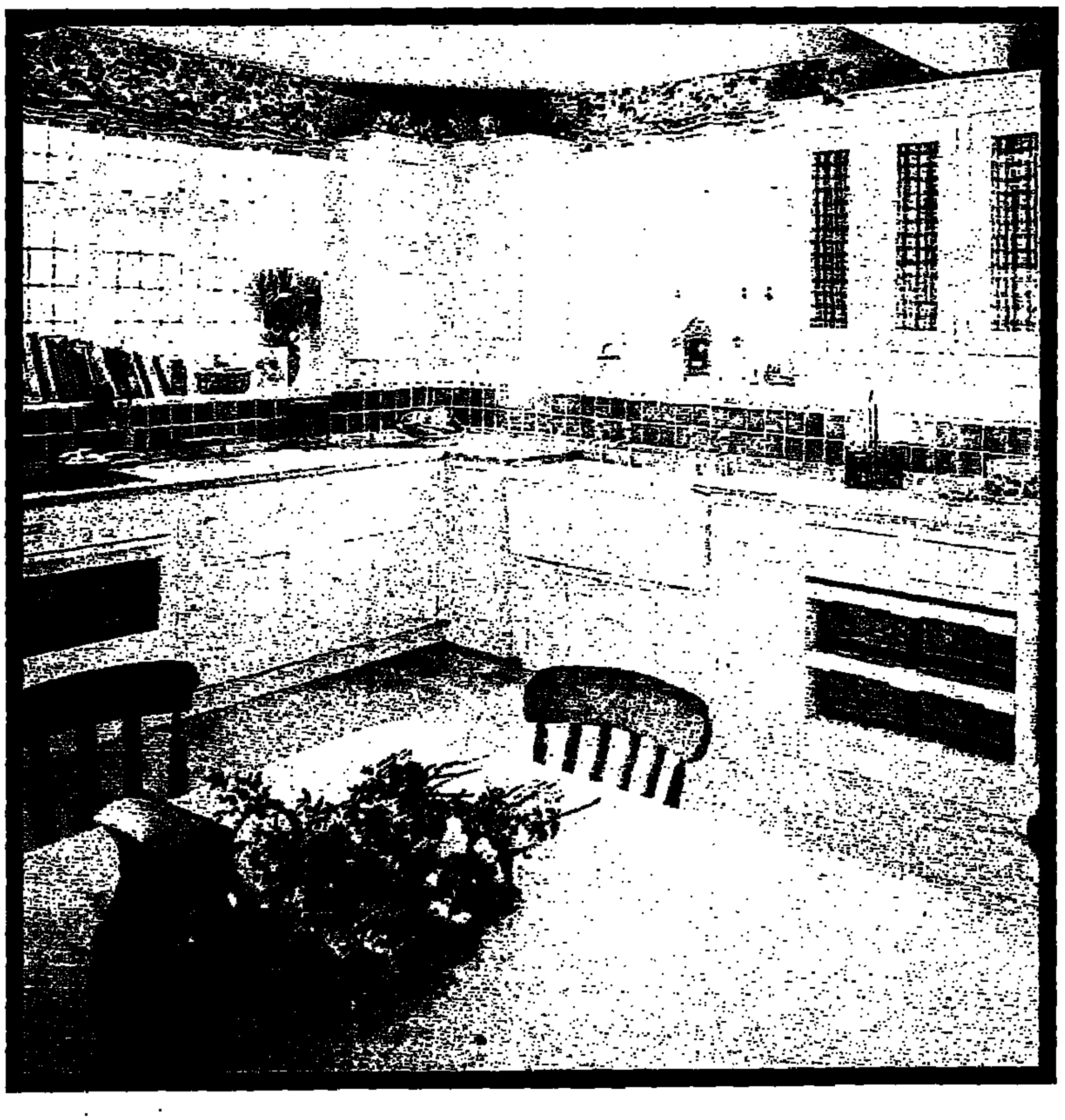
The winner's kitchen will also include a cooker from the latest Hotpoint range, plus a Franke ceramic sink with an exclusive triflow water purification system.

The winner will also receive a pair of free tickets to the Celebrity Theatre to see a demonstration by either Gary Rhodes, Ainsley Harriott, Ken Hom, Rick Stein or the Ready Steady Cook teams.

In addition, the winner will be given front of house seats for the Taste of the Country Theatre where a Robson Ward kitchen (pictured right) will be in action.

For further information on the full range of Robson Ward kitchens, **call 01684 563577**

ROBSON WARD



BBC Good Food Show

At the BBC Good Food Show you will be able to sample the best of British rural produce in the Food from the Countryside Area, find out how easy healthy eating can be at the Enjoy Healthy Eating Theatre, and sip your way from the UK to Australia in the World of Wine.

The show is being held at the NEC Birmingham between Wednesday, November 26 and Sunday, November 30, 1997. Ticket prices, with a *Times* discount, are: weekday £8.10; weekend £9.10.

For further information and to book tickets or celebrity demonstrations, **call 0121 767 4000** quoting NTI.

THE TIMES
WIN A DREAM KITCHEN *token*
BBC Good Food SHOW
Wed 26 - Sun 30 November 1997
NEC Birmingham

HOW TO ENTER Simply cut out and keep the token, left, and attach it to an entry form which will be published next Saturday. The closing date for entries is November 22, 1997. All entries will be put into a free prize draw.

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CHANGING TIMES

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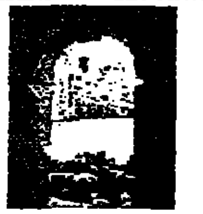

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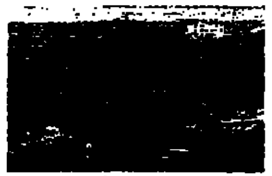

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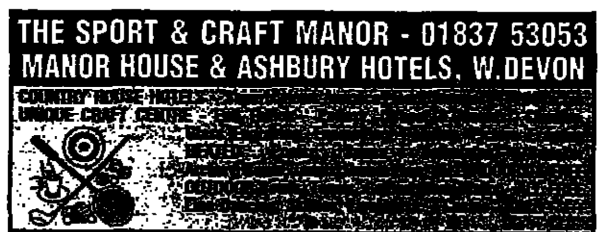

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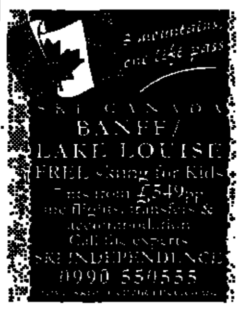

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GENTLEMEN

ATTRACTIVE, successful, stylish 6' company director, 35, works City, lives Surrey, GSOH, likes living life to the full, WLTM very slim, attractive, intelligent, younger female to enjoy the best things in life with. Photo appreciated. Box No 8396 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE, professional, intelligent male, 32, GSOH, n/s, kind & generous, enjoys the finer things in life WLTM similar female. SE. Photo appreciated. Please reply to Box No 8497 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE professional, Asian male, 27, London based, humorous and fun loving seeking attractive female Please Reply to Box 8452 ☎ ✍

CARING, good-looking, successful business man aged 44 with old fashioned values WLTM good looking sophisticated feminine lady under 40 who would be able to turn heads in a crowded restaurant, for good times in a fun one to one relationship. Photo and telephone number appreciated. London/anywhere. Bx 8340 ☎ ✍

COMPANY DIRECTOR (37), tall, not at all bad looking, caring and generous nature, GSOH, seeks slim, stylish woman for light hearted romantic relationship. Cheltenham/Stratford Reply to Box 8426 ☎ ✍

EASY to please man seeks fun, attractive, humorous, slim, easygoing lady! Similar assets in return, along with blue eyes, fairish hair, 5'10" & 31 years of experience. Write me a letter - this could be the start of something beautiful! Pools area. Photo please, mine in return. Please Reply to Box No 8416 ☎ ✍

EFFERVESCENT, outgoing 40 year old company director. Considered handsome and financially secure with G.S.O.H. Seeks similar lady attractive, professional, 25-33 year old. Cotswolds. Photo please. Box No 8430 ☎ ✍

EXTREMELY good looking, tall, successful guy, 38, materialistic but kind & sincere. Homes in the UK & Portugal. Seeks an uptown girl to share friendship & sunshine lifestyle. Bx 8434 ✍

FOCUSED, young, aware, stunning female sought by successful, professional. Box 8500 ☎ ✍

GOOD LOOKING professional man, 34, tall, slim, dark hair, blue eyes, friendly, romantic and usually very modest. Enjoys theatre, films, countryside & being by the sea. Seeks attractive lady for friendship, laughter, romance. London & South. Photo appreciated. Please reply to Box No 8487 ☎ ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GOOD LOOKING Gent, 36, 6'3", kind, caring, warm hearted, loyal, likes most sports, travel, music, pubs, photography. WLTM tall, slim, (30-36) with similar interests. Children welcome. Travel no prob. F Mids based. to Box No 8330 ☎ ✍

GOOD LOOKING, successful, offbeat, outgoing 38 year old designer/ company director WLTM slim, attractive, sexy lady, 25-35, for serious fun & romance. Photo. Box No 8352 ☎ ✍

GOOD-LOOKING, successful publishing director, early 40s, into travel, music, theatre, seeks 30 something, uncomplicated, slim but curvaceous romantic. Photo appreciated. London/ Bucks. Box 8409 ☎ ✍

GREEN CARD Brit. Now returning to this green & pleasant land. WLTM warm, attractive, American professional lady, 30-35 with traditional values & an interest in travel & sport. Photo & letter appreciated. Box No 8387 ☎ ✍

HOMME taureau/cancer, sportif, traducteur des langues scandinaves, du français, prof. d'anglais, cherche femme jusqu'à 40 ans, but amitié, peut-être relations serieuses. Please Reply to Box No 8310 ☎ ✍

INTELLIGENT (33), trustworthy, athletic, tall, kind, attractive "Brandon Lee" look alike, financially well-off, own successful city business, many interests, music, theatre, skiing, cooking, tennis. Looking for a kind beautiful woman soulmate who believes in true love, 20 to 30. Photo appreciated. Box No 8429 ☎ ✍

IS there a tall, slim, attractive lady (under 60), interested in joining forces seriously with a cosmopolitan, sportive man of many interests. London/SW. Photo please. Box No 8264 ☎ ✍

LA TRAVIATA next summer. I have two tickets, would you like to come with me? also to sail with me, walk Dartmoor, come to theatres, etc. I am 55, no ties and home in Devon. Gus sans, sans. Box 8339 ☎ ✍

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MANX based: Solvent, unattached, humorous, caring man, 39. Attractive, 5'11", professional, educated, seeks attractive, sensitive lady for friendship and romance, 28-38. Please Reply to Box No 8425 ☎ ✍

MY dishy upperclass, arty, adopted uncle, very reliable, getting on but quite a wow, deserves 30's plus plus, loving, laughing lady. London. Photo please. Box No 8477 ☎ ✍

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UNATTACHED prof man seeks lovely slim lady 30-40 years old. I like the theatre, travel, restaurants and all forms of music. Luckily I have the time and money to enjoy these things. I'm looking for a stylish woman to laugh away the days with. Recent photo much appreciated. Box No 8401 ☎ ✍

UNIVERSITY graduate, male, 43. Professional, slim, athletic, Italian looking, confident and Christian. Seeks organised, attractive, pretty and feminine lady, 30 plus, Derby/Ches/Scot. Please Reply to Box No 8378 ☎ ✍

WEALTHY, witty and charming guy, 33, considered good looking, hobbies include sports, travel and dining out seeks an attractive lady 30-40 whose passionate, funny with GSOH. Photo and phone number appreciated Cheshire/North West. Box no 8388 ☎ ✍

YOU are intelligent, witty, well spoken and hate wimps. You want a caring, self confident, successful, adventurous, travelled, sporting man, who has got his act together. I'm 6ft, 45, optimistic and no ties. Send photo and go for him! Box No 8359 ☎ ✍

GAY guy, 37, young, pleasant personality, 5'11", creative, WLTM guy 40's, into opera, classical music, countryside, travel. Sussex. Box No 8443 ☎ ✍

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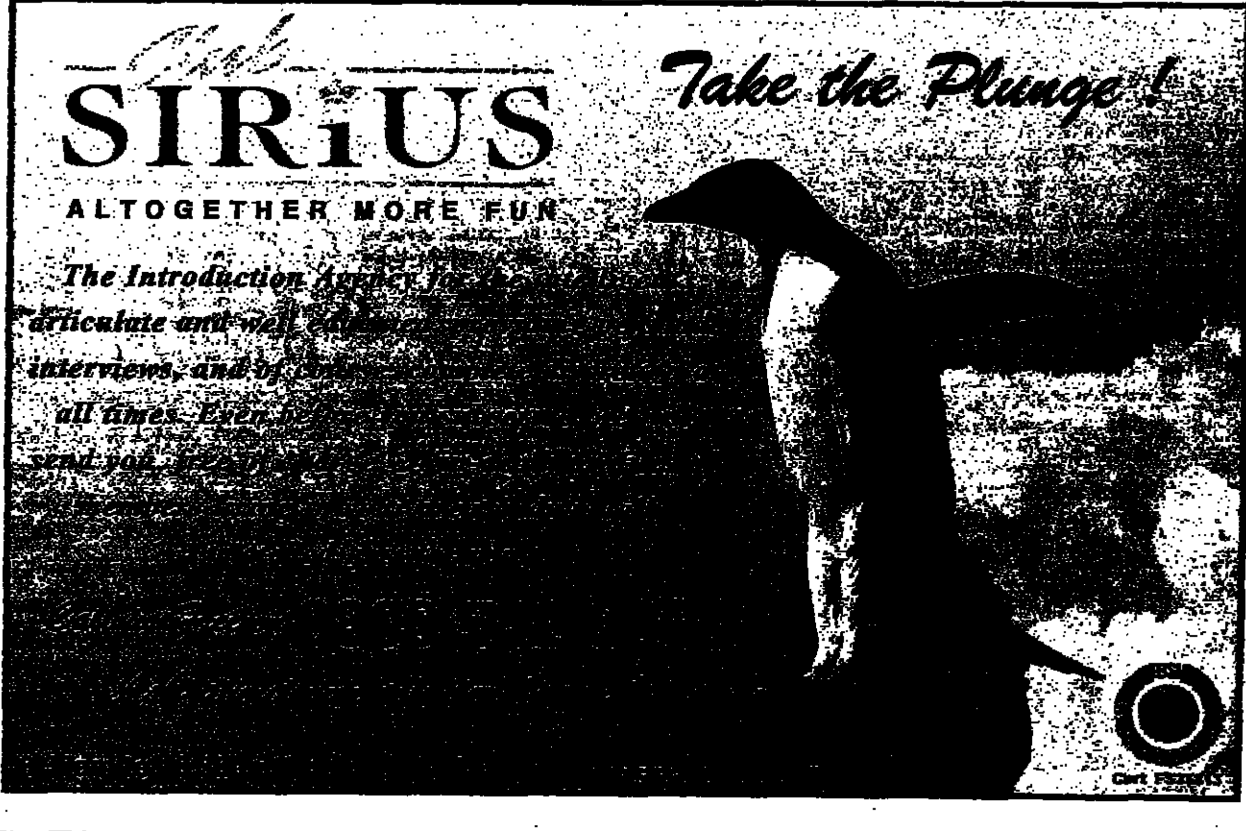

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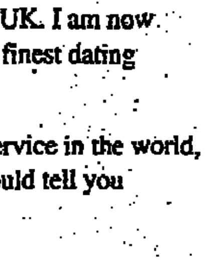
THE TIMES

A TRUE STORY



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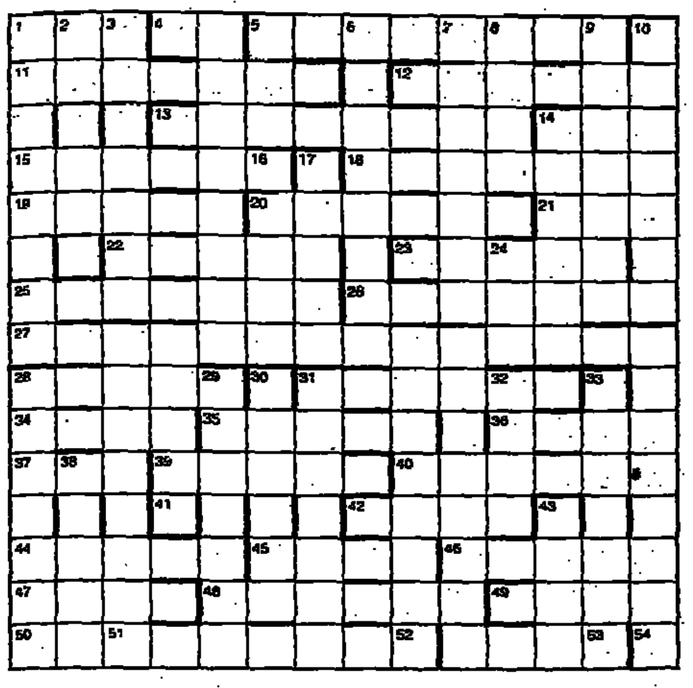
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3435: Contributions by Blank



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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The *Listener Crossword No 3435, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire* AL3 6HE, by Thursday, November 20.

WHERE a vertical light runs into 27 across, one or two letters should be taken from the clue answer and put into 27 across at the end of the light (where two letters are taken, they should be added). Seven of the clue answers for those vertical lights are coincidentally words in Chambers, two of them only incidentally, and have been clued as such. The other five are clued without definition, but with two cryptic indications each. In the clue to each normal light, the cryptic indication gives an extra letter. Those letters, in clue order, spell out a quotation (in ODQ 4) and its author.

ACROSS

1 Point out game in mixed stew (3)
4 See bow turn away to goal beyond the Mississippi (9)
5 Nuns give utterance on Sunday: we saints not Catholic at heart (8)
11 Put life into wine before digestive failure (7)
12 Fruit returned by servant in spring (6)
13 Almost vertical? What is almost horizontal is even harder (8)
14 Running waters give energy to kiln endlessly (3)
15 Reversing dry berm often buries past (6)
18 Cabby baffled with eclipse loses base to two-wheeler (7)
19 Latin source (associated with their fount) — or sentimentality about one (5)
20 Initial ugly look of sibling is scar formation (6)
21 Fashion tradesmen (3)
22 Set on bracken again (5)
23 Heartless leap over and across the pond, that's courage (5)
25 Inheritance of worker from doubtful antecedents (7)
26 Burmese surgeon lecturer taken in by Latin first (7)
27 See preamble (14, 3 words)
28 Climbed pen without a date (5)
31 Unwisely insures deceitful women (6)
34 *To hammer, pound, or skin* (4)
35 Came into view, or in view so rapidly in mirror (5)
36 *Proclamation of year is everywhere scorned at first* (4)
37 *Weaker batsmen to be indisposed* (3)
39 Bikini, for example, is hidden by evil lothario *looking the other* way (5)
40 Infantrymen making journeys in fast cars (6)
42 *Responsibility for a bruised snout* (4)
44 Sticking point into rejected soul, one causes painful obstruction (5)
45 Apply soft, greasy material to a clot after accident (4)
46 Run out *after a maiden* by an ass (5)
47 Components of Europium *not* detected in *new French star* (4)
48 From the east *once*, taking age after that (6)
49 Pay *out to retired soldier without a name* (4)
50 Sentimentality's sweet in the inner rooms for the *intermediary* (9)
53 Black birds brook no baurs — never distracted (11)

DOWN

1 Raffles rejected rugs for less than a halfpenny (8)
2 Translator bidden in Jewish surplices had not exposed Greek magistrates (6)
3 Thirster pulled rings (7)
5 In the night before I contend (3)
6 Bawl roughly at man on dole in hawker's round (8)
7 Detailed truth about spies no good (7)
8 Sick party's not even agile (4)
9 Soldier? Confused about water? Not I! (7)
10 Agrees to be sent from one bank to another (7)
14 Light weight in bonce broken by heavy weight after nod (6)
16 Place of execution where two score consumed, overlooking peripheral fort (5)
17 Swift ships run away before time (5)
24 Measure of length of endless millstream (3)
28 Yoke with half a girdle, arranging gap between (7)
29 File discovered by lawyer before State's trial (7, two words)
30 Cave supplies oil, essential for current in grid (6)
31 Make notes about at all definite combination (7)
32 Apply *common sense to words used as names and* minced oath (4)
33 *German cavalryman returning round* Indonesia — he's retreating (7)
38 *Confused logic with game not* about round house (5)
41 Locally pliant and weak Cockney's name (5)
43 *Strange alure of nitrogenous waste* (4)
51 Place with a chair of sanctuary: not very good, always *in court* (8)
52 Smeared green ink about part of column with ruler (8)
54 Annoyance *with censor's stumbling bodyguard* (8)

W

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A	E	H	U	B	E	C	L	U	D	E	S	U	K	E
A	L	I	H	U	N	U	T	F	I	E	L	D	E	R
R	B	V	O	L	U	T	E	F	V	V	R	E	L	P
Y	E	A	D	L	E	U	A	P	A	E	G	Y	P	E
O	R	H	A	I	K	N	T	I	L	R	A	E	T	L
K	G	I	N	O	L	M	E	R	S	I	N	I	A	L
I	A	T	I	N	E	B	S	O	R	T	I	L	L	A
N	N	I	C	A	M	E	R	A	L	O	S	I	E	T
E	S	G	S	M	B	L	A	Z	O	N	T	A	M	E
S	P	H	A	N	I	T	E	A	A	E	P	L	A	Y
I	A	T	T	I	C	I	N	O	S	A	U	L	T	S
S	N	S	O	B	S	C	I	S	S	L	A	Y	E	R

Solution and Notes for No 3432
Alibi Two by Fenrix

The redundant words and placing on grid:

ACROSS: 1. permit, 25D 13. transports, 45D 14. heathen, 35A 15. unusable, 10D 16. concerto, 26A 17. urethane, 31D 19. languidly, 27A 20. fevered, 44D 23. optimistic, 4D 26. persistent, 29A 27. dutiful, 3D 28. exorcising, 34A 29. edit, 46A 31. invariably, 40D 34. *northern*, 17D 35. *educational*, 23A 36. *incomers*, 19A 37. irving, 2D 41. together, 30D 42. consider, 43D 43. legumes, 28A 46. extra, 24D 47. always, 5D 48. lunatic, 51A 49. theatre, 38D 50. leg-spinner, 7D 51. chamber, 28A

DOWN: 2. evidently, 49A 3. heroic, 12D 4. barbarous, 37A 5. enemy, 16A 6. container, 18D 7. upvalued, 11D 8. domestic, 13D 9. scenery, 48A 10. unimaginable, 33D 11. korfball, 17A 12. element, 36A 17. yuan-earning, 47A 18. drawing, 42A 21. neighbours, 9D 22. adviser, 6D 24. ernest, 39D 25. indicates, 50A 30. *landing-stage*, 32D 31 *misses*, 1A 32. *archaeology*, 31A 33. independence, 43A 38. poets, 15A 39. hombre, 41A 40. trials, 8D 43. outlaws, 21D 44. silicates, 14A 45. sermon, 20A

The winner is D.J. Dare-Plumpton, from Boston in Lincolnshire. *The runners up are* G.M. Neighbour of Pinner, London; Mrs W. Hulme of Tonbridge, Kent; Mrs J. Walker of Crowthorne, Berkshire; Mrs B. Kennedy of Harrow-on-the-Hill, London; Mrs H. Roberts of London.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE World Championships concluded in Tunisia last week. The four USA teams dominated the *early stages: the two teams in the* open event (the Bermuda Bowl) finished first and second in the round robin, and the American women were second and third in the Venice Cup round robin, with the French team winning. The British women also qualified for the knockout phase, but were *beaten in the quarterfinals* by China. The four American teams *advanced to the semifinals of their* respective events, where the rules of the contest *decreed they* play each other. Thus there was an American team in each final.

In the Bermuda Bowl the other semifinalists were France and Norway, with the more experienced French team prevailing. The American clash was a repeat of a long-running rivalry between Nickell, the holders of the Bermuda Bowl, and Deutsch. Deutsch had beaten Nickell in the US trials, but over the last few years the Nickell team has *won most of their encounters.* It was so again this time — the Nickell team won easily.

In the 160-board final France (Paul Chemla, Michel Perron, Christian Mari, Alain Lévy, Franc Mullion and Hervé Mouiel) took a 50 IMP lead into the third day and held on to win by 27 IMPs.

In the second Venice Cup semifinal, China, the losing finalists in the 1996 Olympiad, beat France, but were beaten by USA 1 in the *final.*

The hand in the next column is from the *match between USA II* and Norway in the Bermuda Bowl round robin. Jeff Meckstroth found a chance for his contract that few players in the world would have considered.

Dealer North — Game all, IMPs

North: ♠A96 ♥J10652 ♦A102 ♣K8
West: ♠K753 ♥K8 ♦KJ974 ♣32
East: ♠QJ62 ♥A974 ♦Q863 ♣Q
South: ♠104 ♥Q3 ♦5 ♣AJ1097654

W	N	E	S
H'ness	*R'well*	*H'gemo*	*M'stroth*
-	1H	Pass	3C
Pass	3NT	Pass	4C
Pass	5C	All Pass	

Contract: Five Clubs by South
Lead: seven of diamonds

Meckstroth's Three Club bid was invitational, and he should no doubt have passed 3NT, which would have been a straightforward contract, but then there would have been no story. Five Clubs has only two top losers, but if the defence *switch to spades* after winning the first heart they will take three tricks.

When West led a diamond Meckstroth could see that if he put up the ace *East would give* his partner count in diamonds, and the defence would find the shift to spades. So he played the ten of diamonds at the first trick. After Helgemo won the queen he unsuspectingly continued the suit, allowing Meckstroth to throw a small heart away. Next he led a low heart from dummy, which Helgemo fatally ducked — had he *taken the ace declarer would have* had to guess the heart position. Helness took the king and switched to spades, but it was too late. Declarer had a ruffing finesse in hearts to get rid of the spade loser.

WORD ANSWERS

VERVET
(c) A species of monkey native to various parts of Africa.
ZAMARRA
(a) A sheepskin jacket worn by Spaniards. The Spanish word.
VALLAR
(b) Of a crown or garland: bestowed as a distinction on the first soldier to mount the enemy's rampart.
WHIPPERGINNIE
(a) A term of reprobation or abuse applied to a woman. *The land of whipperginnie* is a nickname for purgatory. *Answers from page 36*

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

'ING the past year Garry Kas-
' has been consistently suc-
l in contests against human
ition, capturing the first
in Las Palmas, Linares and
rod. However, at Tilburg in
d he had to share top hon-
ith Vladimir Kramnik and
widler, the reigning Russian
on. This week's game
Swidler in devastating form
the junior world champion.

Peter Swidler; Black: Tal

1997
Defence

e6 2 d4 d5
Bb4 4 e5 c5

Nimzowitsch variation
ch Defence, often found
rtoire of Nigel Short.

Bxc3+ 6 bxc3 Qc7
le7 8 h4

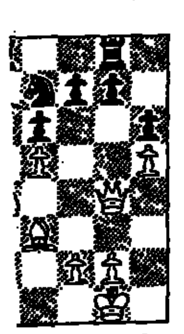
rust of White's h-pawn
indication of White's
tentions.

7 9 h5 h6
4 11 0-0

huk in Horgen 1995.
11 *dxe5 Nd7 12 Rh4*
. Bc6 13 Be3 Nxe5 14
Kd2 0-0-0 16 Qg4 Nf5
Qb4 which led to an
.

12 Rb1 0-0-0

ecision hoping to
's king from the



us. *Black should*
nside by means of
sonable chances.
s lines and Black's
arget once again.

15 Rb4 Bd7
17 Qg4 Nxd3
19 Rfb1 b6

Black should have tried to avoid this weakness by playing 19 ... Rb8.

20 a4 f5

After 20 ... Qxe5 21 a5 bxa5 22 Rb7 Rb8 White wins with 23 Rxa7+ Kxa7 24 Rxb8 when Black has no good way of recapturing. Accepting the other gambit pawn on offer with 20 ... Qxc3 also permits 21 a5.

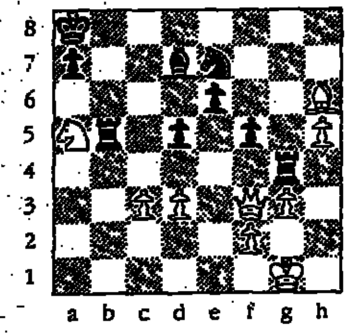
21 exf6 gxf6 22 Qf3 f5

After 22 ... e5 23 a5 bxa5 (23 ... exd4 24 axb6 axb6 25 Rxb6 Qa7 26 Bxd4) 24 Nb5 is also favourable for White.

23 a5 bxa5 24 Rb7 Qxb7
25 Rxb7 Kxb7 26 Nb3 Rg4
27 Nxa5+ Ka8

Although material is nominally equal, Black has weaknesses to *defend on both wings.* In particular a queen is most powerful when the enemy king, as here, lacks protection.

28 Bxh6 Rb8 29 g3 Rb5



After 29 ... Rh8 30 Bf4 Rxh5 31 Qe3 White's attack against the black king takes on decisive forms.

30 Bf8 Rxa5 31 Bxe7 Be8
32 h6 Bg6 33 Qe3 Ra1+
34 Kg2 Ra6 35 Qc5 Kb7
36 Bd8 Black resigns

White's attack plus the passed pawn have finally stretched Black's resources to breaking point.

The annual dinner of the Staunton Society will be held at the Royal Automobile Club on November 27. All members of the Staunton Society, including those who have *qualified for membership* by winning the weekly prize in this column, can apply *for tickets, which* are limited. Contact Barry Martin, secretary of the Staunton Society, at 98 Cole Park Road, Twickenham TW1 1JA (0181-744 2868).

WINNING MOVE

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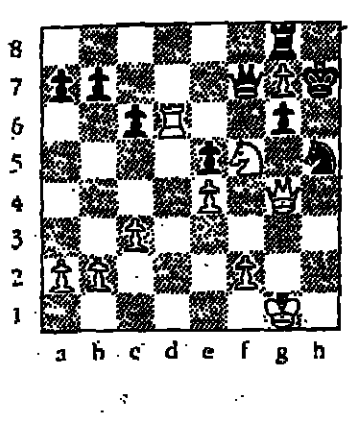
eek's competition:

Last week's winner was: S Ormond, Langport, Somerset



COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

CAN YOU have fun on the Internet? Yes, depending on your definition of fun. Search the Internet for good-old-fashioned fun and no fewer than 4,538 sites are *listed,* although you *might not* want to check them all out.

The problem is that whatever word is used in a Web site's description appears in the found index. And the problem with the word fun is that too many people use it in the hope of enticing visitors to their otherwise dreary pages.

Many of the 4,000-plus sites refer to joke compilations, where any *humorous content tends to be* gossamer thin. For example, one dedicated to two-liners starting: "You know you're an Internet junkie when. . ." (http://www.hpc.ntua.gr/ktroulos/Neat/computer.html). The answers include: when you refer to going to the bathroom as downloading and when your *eyeglasses have a Web site burnt in* on them, neither of which seems worth the cost of a phone call.

One of the wittier adult sites to try is Victor Lewis-Smith's (http://www.lewis-smith.com/index.htm) which although promoting comedy tapes and related spin-offs also has plenty of anarchic humour on offer. *Audio snatches give you a taste of* Mr Lewis-Smith's wisdom, such as his impersonation of a baby turning into a pig, *as well as fine* telephone wind-ups of the rich and famous including Mary Whitehouse and Michael Winner.

Follow the wit and wisdom of Victor Lewis-Smith on his Web site

Also listed under the generic "fun" heading are hundreds of educational sites for children, with word, maths and science games featuring most. The site for Fun Science for Families Day! (http://*pages.prodigy.com/LA/fun* science/funscience.html) lists hundreds of science-related sites for children worth a look. Among these is the Exploratorium (http://www.exploratorium.edu), which comes out of San Francisco with activities to be attempted beyond the computer, which *you* may or may not want to try, such as how to build your own pinhole camera or dissect a cow's eye.

EDUCATION multimedia company YITM and Teesside Tertiary College are holding their second Interactive History Day on Tuesday. *This follows the success of* their first experiment in June which recreated the events of *July 1914* that lead to the First World War. Then more than 70,000 hits were recorded in the 24-hour period.

Next week's experience will focus on the unfolding events at the 1919 Versailles Peace Conference leading to the Treaty of Versailles. Students logging on will be adopting the *role of the principal* participating countries who must debate with others at home to decide on a strategy for their nation to take to the negotiating table. The site is aimed at A-level history students; schools and colleges wishing to take part should pre-register at YITM's WW1 site (*http://www.yitm.com/yitm/* ww1/).

TO CLOSE, the winners of Cyberspace Thirty-Six, who each scoop Kodak DC25 digital cameras *with our congratulations. They are* Roy Kennedy from Exeter, Devon, for his out-of-focus yet crisply atmospheric snap of HMS *King George V*, and Nicholas Jones from Southgate, north London, descending a water chute. Their entries have already appeared; the third winner is Michael Tromp from *Ormskirk, Lancashire, who began:* "The heat is suffocating, the walls *glisten with condensation, sweat* trickles down the face on to the high-fitting collar ... the atmosphere is electric. John Lennon is on stage at the Cavern belting out *Twist and Shout.*" The standard was exceptional and thank you to *everyone who entered.*

TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

Solutions to the questions on page 36
Question 1: 7+478+673+9095=10253
Question 2:

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	W	A	L
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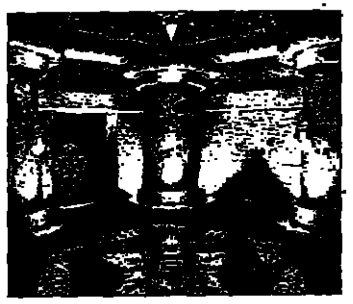
NEW SOFTWARE

HEY good looking, what ya got cooking? Not enough, really. **Riven** is the sequel to Myst, the bestseller a few years back. The game comes on five CD-Roms and we can assume that most of the space is taken up with the beautiful graphics. Mouse-click driven, the quick-change slide show *sometimes* kicks into silky video sequences in which *you are sped from one glorious* setting to another on what can only be described *as* a wood-and-brass roller-coaster ride which could have been designed by H.G. Wells. Such journeys are cumbersome on disc space so you can find yourself constantly juggling with CD-Roms. Red Orb's Riven is a delicate affair, with a handful of subtle cryptic clues to solve if you are to progress *through its ranks. While some are* sure to persevere, too many players *might find their enthusiasm evaporates* as the mystery slowly unfolds. The five CD-Roms are dual format, for Mac and Windows 95. Inside the packaging is an order form for the *Riven — Hints and Solutions* book (£17.95) and therein lies the problem: *to solve this mystery* properly you probably will need the book, suggesting it has become too intricate and clever for its own good.



Riven: subtle cryptic clues

Verdict: 7 out of 10. Mesmerisingly beautiful but woefully impenetrable mystery. £39.99.

LOAD BBC Multimedia's **Live and Kicking** CD-Rom onto your machine and within a couple of minutes *you conclude that it is a dud of epic* proportions. With this title you *theoretically* make your own edition of the corporation's Saturday morning favourite *Live and Kicking*, by putting together a variety of inserts such as interviews, fashion shoots and music tracks, then adding a couple of links. The end product is so dire that even Channel 5 wouldn't run it.

In the Leprechauner mode you make a handful of totally unfunny jokes, in Game Builder you can make a puzzle called "Loot the *Fruit*". *There are no famous models* walking the catwalk in the fashion shoot you *oversee, instead* the show's presenters Zoe Ball and Jamie Theakston strut their stuff. Music Corner is where you can combine a handful of samples to *build up dreary tunes* and in Art For'em you make a picture with insufferable duo *Dominic* and Daniel. Then you "sit back and watch your exclusive version of *Live and Kicking*", if the blurb is to be believed. Actually, I tried this *out with several wannabe programme-makers* and none of them stayed with the title long enough to reach the pay-off. Live and Kicking is a bland and colourless title. *There is little explanation* of how each tasks works, nor a ready help *facility.*

Verdict: 2 out of 10. Ghastly BBC children's programme-maker lacking a single saving grace. £29.99.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 133

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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Mrs Carol Pearce, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex

هكذا من الاصل

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, *Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.*

Q My wife and I are about to celebrate our first wedding anniversary. My father tells me that it is commemorated by a paper present, but I am at a loss as to what to give her.
— Timothy Robson, Hexham, Northumberland.

A Think laterally, think tickets. A friend of mine solved this problem with great aplomb by presenting his wife with two tickets (paper) to a particularly beautiful island in the West Indies, adjacent to the one where they had spent their honeymoon, and which she had wanted to visit. He then had the photographs of their holiday mounted in a magnificent album (paper again).

Q I am in my sixties and have still not discovered why some people, when writing to a newspaper, sign off "Your obedient servant". Surely if you buy that editor's newspaper, he should be considered your servant? Isn't the whole idea ridiculous, anyway?
— John Andrews, London NW3.

A "Your obedient servant" is a relic from the days when long, flowery, somewhat exaggerated demonstrations of submission were considered the polite way to close formal letters. Today such embellishments are used only in very rare circumstances, such as when corresponding directly with The Queen and other members of the Royal Family. To use them when writing to the Fourth Estate seems particularly archaic.

Q At this time of the year, when should a gentleman start wearing his poppy? I buy mine several weeks before the due date, but am unsure as to when in advance of Remembrance Sunday I should start to wear it.
— Claude R Hart, Sevenoaks, Kent.

A As the donations go to charity it is appreciated and correct for men to start wearing poppies as soon as the Poppy Appeal begins on October 29. Everyone should wear them in the week before Remembrance Sunday.

Q Last year we stayed in a hotel on a half-board basis for the first time. The meals were all buffet service. At the end of our stay I was not sure how to deliver the gratuity I felt was expected by the head waiter. Should I have requested an envelope from the reception desk or left a cash sum openly on our table on our last night? What is the expected amount?
Name and address withheld.

A Tips of this nature should be given personally. Therefore I would have recommended your placing the tip in cash in a small envelope and giving it to the head waiter when you left the dining room for the last time. About 10 per cent of your bill would be appropriate, because you had been residents and not enjoyed full service at your table.

Q A rather pleasant surprise is to find a £1 Lottery ticket tucked inside a birthday card. However, what is the etiquette if one were to win £5 million? Do *you offer to share it with the* person sending you the gift, send them a token (say £100) or return the £1 it originally cost them?
— Professor Anthony Field, The Barbican, London EC2.

A A super-generous gesture is required in these circumstances. My advice is to base the amount of money you offer to the present giver on what might reasonably be expected by an agent for clinching a deal for you. These commissions · range from 10 to 20 per cent of the whole, although I always think 12.5 per cent is about the right amount. In the sum you describe, this would mean a rather stunning £625,000 for your friend. Good news all round, I'd say.

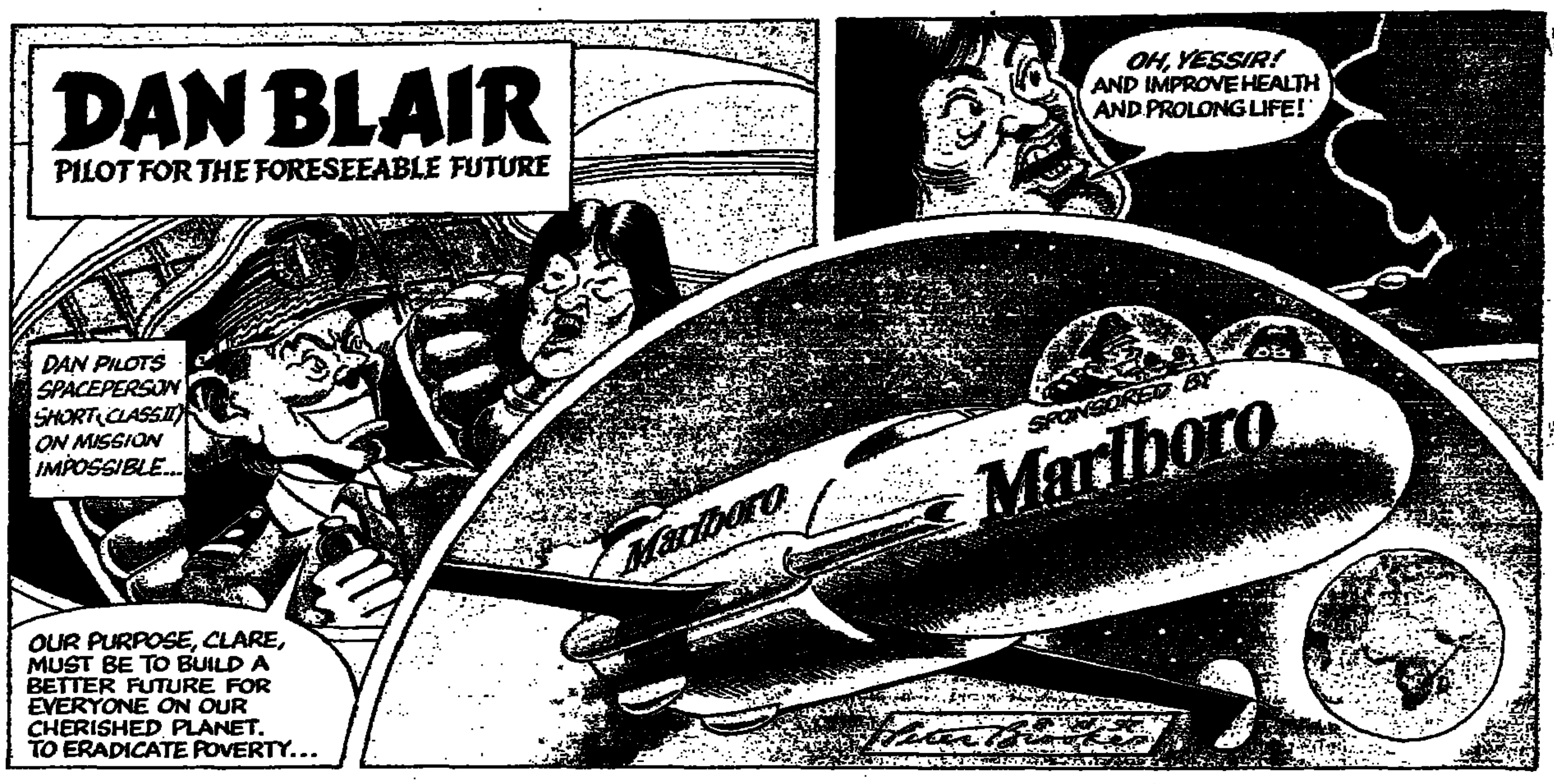
Q I recently gave a birthday party to celebrate an anniversary. Although I sent many invitations to friends in the United States, I received not one single reply, despite a prominent RSVP on the card. I subsequently asked one of these friends if he had received the summons and was told: "Oh yes, but we weren't travelling in Europe at that time, so we assumed you would realise that we couldn't attend." It was only a drinks party, but I wondered if I'm quite justified in feeling slightly bemused by this reaction.
— William Cardew, Patney, Devizes, Wiltshire.

A They know not what they do. Nevertheless, you are quite right to feel bewildered. Good manners are universal and your American friends' behaviour is particularly thoughtless by the standards of any civilised society. Maybe next time you should think *twice about asking them?*

Q When is a lounge not a lounge but a sitting room and when is a sitting room not a sitting room but a drawing room?
— *Maurice Taylor, Shrewsbury,* Shropshire.

A A lounge is a lounge only in an airport. Otherwise it is a sitting room, unless it's rather grand, and then it's a drawing room.

John Morgan is associate editor of GQ *magazine*


DAN BLAIR
PILOT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE
DAN PILOTS SPACEPERSON SHORT (CLASS II) ON MISSION IMPOSSIBLE...
OUR PURPOSE, CLARE, MUST BE TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE ON OUR CHERISHED PLANET. TO ERADICATE POVERTY...
OH, YESSIR! AND IMPROVE HEALTH AND PROLONG LIFE!
SPONSORED BY
Marlboro
Marlboro

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VERVET
a. A thick fabric
b. A herb
c. A monkey

ZAMARRA
a. A sheepskin jacket
b. Fate
c. A gypsy dance

VALLAR
a. A bodyguard
b. A badge of honour
c. A household god

WHIPPERGINNIE
a. A loose woman
b. A gorse bush
c. A sailor's knot

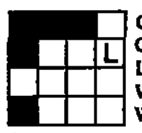
Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

Question 1:
In the following sum each of the digits from 0 to 9 is used. Given that S+V=E, can you make the sum work?

A
CAT
HAS
NINE
LIVES

Question 2:
Insert a letter into each of the ten blank squares so that you can trace out all 11 placenames listed. To trace out a name you may start from any square, but each move must be to an adjacent letter square — horizontally, vertically or diagonally. You may use a letter as many times as you like — even in the same word.



CHEAM, CHESTER, COWES, CREWE, ESHER, LEWES, MARCH, WALES, WARE, WASH, WORCESTER

Answers on page 35. R.K.

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

I plan to provide a guide to the architectural style of cryptic clueing as practised in the *Times* Crossword, beginning with an overview today.

The majority of cryptic clues combine a definition with an indication of the answer based on wordplay of some sort, either of which components may come first in the clue. Each of the forms of wordplay has its own internal structure. An anagram, for example, must include both ingredients (the letters to be used) and directions to mix them. A "hidden" clue contains a group of words within which the answer lurks as a sequence of letters, together with some pointer to the lurking. Clues based on homophones exploit a word sounding like the answer but spelt differently, signalled by a phrase such as "we hear". Other clues amount to construction kits providing components and the instructions for assembling them by cutting, reversing, juxtaposing, and inserting.

There are three main exceptions from the equation clue = definition + wordplay. The first case is when the second indication of the answer is simply another definition, as in **Beat poet (5)**. The second is the cryptic definition, where the definition *is* the wordplay. This type of clue, which has long been a hallmark of the *Times* Crossword, is my favourite. A classic of the genre is **The cylinder is jammed (5,4)** and a particularly fine recent example is **Weapon that quickens the pulse (3-7)**. The final exception to be considered is especially appreciated by compilers and has come to be known as the "& Lit." clue. Here the definition and the cryptic indication coincide, as in "What gets me in post improperly? (8)" which can be read both as an indication that the answer is an anagram of "me in post" and *literally* as a definition of the answer. Another example, not using an anagram, is **Take sweetheart and run (5).**

The answer to Will Shortz's puzzle from last week is Bronte: To Be or Not to Be.

PICTURE LINE

It's a veggie diet you need, Ringo

READERS are invited to suggest what Prince Harry and his father, pictured right, might be saying.

This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

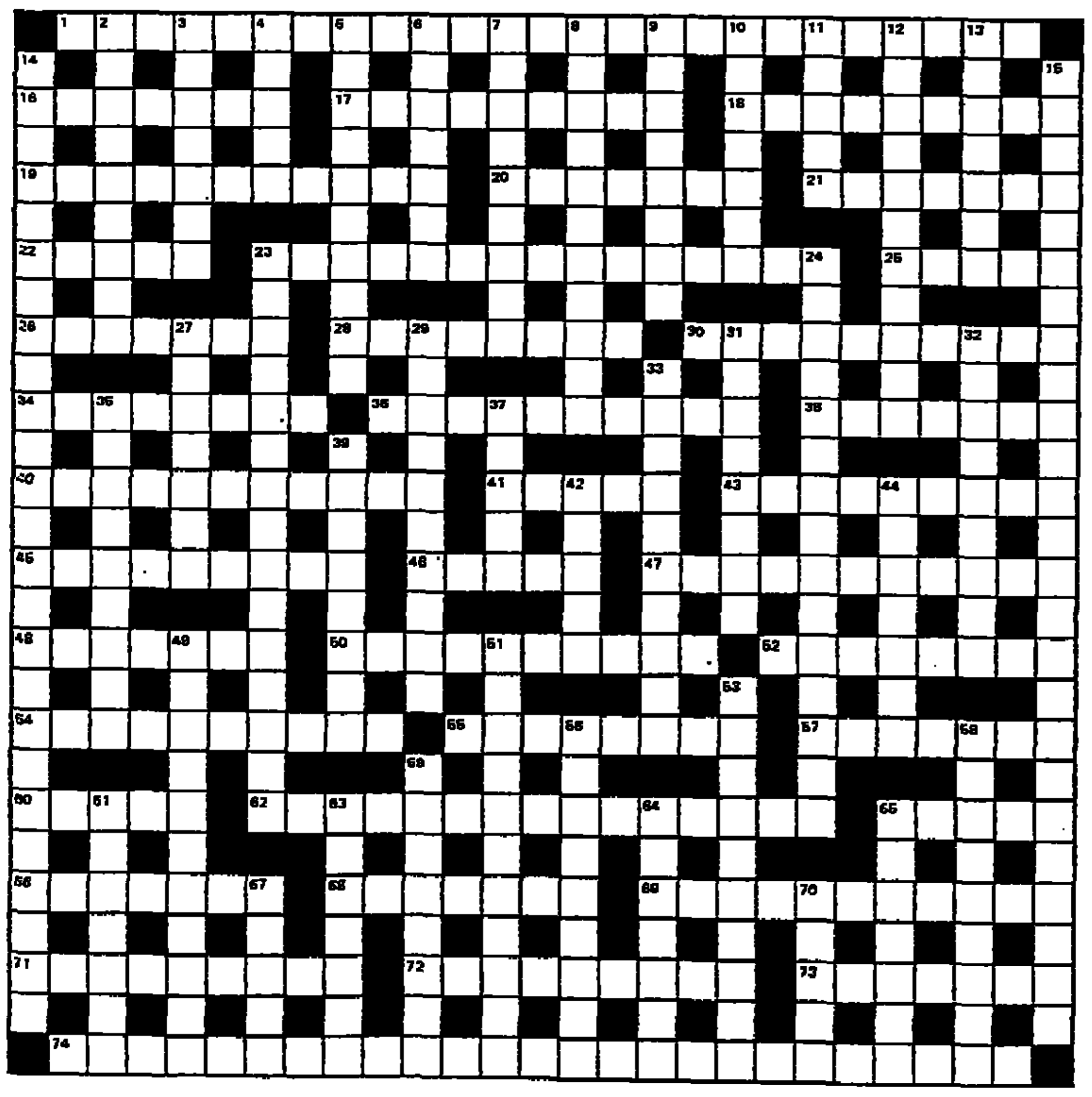
Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 13.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Mr John Smailes, of Coxhoe, Co Durham.

JUMBO CROSSWORD 135

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first *interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen.* Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 135, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday November 17. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, November 22.



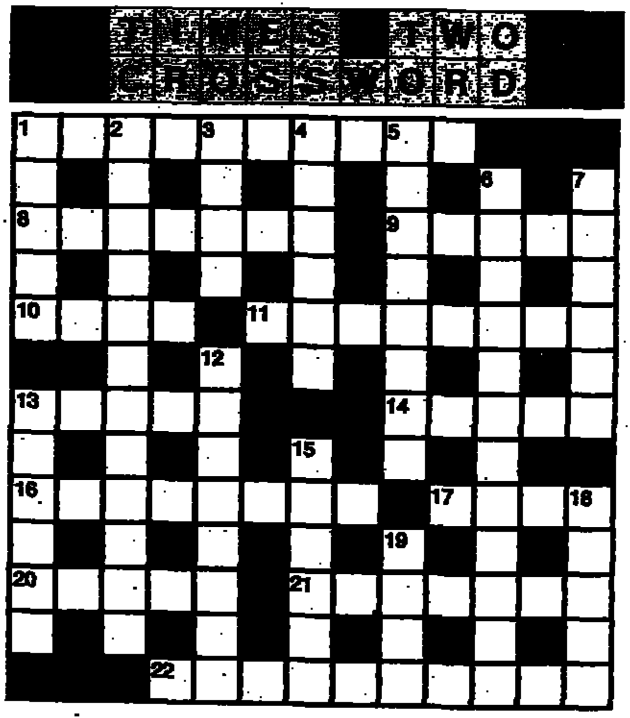
NAME ....
ADDRESS ....
....
.... POSTCODE ....

ACROSS

1 One noted line indicating where the traffic should be lighter? (2,3,5,4,2,3,6)
16 Playwright — one with my own company (7)
17 A nervous reaction about first proposal? Reflection's good on such things (9)
18 Desdemona's father needing supporter in boat at sea (9)
19 Spilling gin over suit is liable to put one in a spin (11)
20 Not consistent with man hiding deserter (7)
21 Queen's very much put on face of coinage (7)
22 Old English king heard our appeal for shelter (5)
23 Primarily, signet set in grand gemstone is main arrangement whereby a bishop assumes power (15)
25 One should go straight for the king (5)
26 It's abhorrent when strong and healthy will swallow illicit drug (7)
28 Lawyer offered adult backing, still about rent (8)
30 Unorthodox belief: faulty costing is gaining millions (10)
34 Beware going back — uranium's corroded — get away from danger! (8)
36 Fish's characteristic in waters off Tasmania (4,6)
38 Element — new one discovered in fluid discharge (7)
40 Discourage one, and make speech become worse (11)
41 Vale in Greece — holy place left abandoned (5)
43 Lose paper with new recipe for fruit (4-5)
45 A model subject, yet preach badly? (9)
46 Secure advice about European Union (3,2)
47 Arrayed queen in state — no knight and pages following (2,9)
48 Old family's on holiday in North Japanese island (7)
50 Lay down whole suit in clubs? (10)
52 Awkward endless niggle — I and my joints! (8)
54 Carelessly made icing is set like a rock (10)
55 Vulgarly self-assertive grabbing AA man? I become badly behaved (8)
57 A tinker mended part of horn, perhaps (7)
60 Unpleasant smell I note with organic soil (5)
62 Where the joking takes place? (9,6)
65 Decorative work round Volume One (5)
66 A shutting of the door interrupted doctor's light (3,4)
68 Even has it with morning running over afternoon performance? (7)
69 I'm building front with a military unit's equipment (11)
71 On which Utah and Colorado adopted a common line? (9)
72 Liberal German's agreeing about Banjul being riotous capital city (9)
73 Like unloved garden urn, maybe? (3,4)
74 *Singing for joy, expecting mature women?* (5,6,3,6,5)

DOWN

2 Amateur attack gaining nothing (3-6)
3 Almost show disapproval over writer's mock title (3,4)
4 As its citizens have it, a country's not entirely unanimous in rising (5)
5 Italian used a pen a lot in rough draft (10)
6 Last bit of mystery cloaks strange yellow container (7)
7 Popular new footballer — he may put one over the bar with a kick (9)
8 Spellbinding, getting a stall finally for one in coronation (11)
9 *On the side, I adore heartless* witticisms (8)
10 One goes after greeting graduate at church barbecue (7)
11 What won't be used when you go to lift dancer's middle? (5)
12 Use classified pages again to study lines it's set up in (11)
13 Portuguese resort turns out costlier when its not cold (7)
14 Song about the old way of working in precious metals? (6,7,5,3,4)
15 Belloc's question concerning Prospero's reflection on the Crown of Milan? (2,3,8,2,3,7)
23 Study of current forces has Army science told to reform (15)
24 Page's confidante for William in house of Windsor? (8,7)
27 Dance has some neighbour reeling (7)
29 Flight path to carry jet astray? (10)
31 An uplifted sightseer's not old — he strips off! (8)
32 Fool catches Father Henry with unknown spontaneous illness (9)
33 *A noted Prime Minister might* become weak-spirited without it (10)
35 Rock thrown up in bizarre row (9)
37 It's to have the same score he composed in France (5)
39 Risk a wet upset? (5-3)
42 Some blame top golfer when continually selecting number three wood (5)
44 John Steed, English, lying in state (7)
49 Guilt's often apportioned by this society (11)
51 Fuel rigs pan out here? (7,4)
53 NZ shrub akin to phlox, it's said (5-5)
56 Sapper Gwyn kept in radio feature? (9)
58 Bird flying *north* over promontory (9)
59 Keeping a deep silence, simply exist in prison (8)
61 Northern Amish set out hard legal precepts (7)
63 Emulsion needs hardness on top of acrylic (7)
64 Folding paper note after a cheque's settled up (7)
65 Large fellow, 51, Turkish (7)
67 Parking sounded a pain where Joey grew up (5)
70 *Mournful music is good in* dreadful circumstances (5)



No 1246

ACROSS
1 Irish elf (10)
8 Precious metal bars (7)
9 Forest clearing (5)
10 Run with long strides (4)
11 Frenzied, mad state (8)
13 Pour juices over (roast) (5)
14 Smallest amount (5)
16 Items: solicitor's training (8)
17 Curve (4)
20 Hit: influence: a patch (5)
21 Holiday visitor (7)
22 Where Arnold heard Sea of Faith withdrawing (5,5)

DOWN
1 Defamatory publication (5)
2 First place (*race grid*) (4,8)
3 Send out (4)
4 Yearn (6)
5 Awkward, inelegant (8)
6 Span./Port.-speaking New World (5,7)
7 Curtain-rail cover (6)
12 Victim of Tybalt (*R & J*) (8)
13 Office of eg bank; part of tree (6)
15 Boil with foam (6)
18 European: Cockney wife (5)
19 Restrain(t) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1245
ACROSS: 7 Adorn 8 Glazier 9 Persist 10 Kukri 11 Dais 12 Stitches 15 Dog-eared 16 Grim 19 Nomad 21 Allowed 22 Sundial 23 Nurse
DOWN: 1 Tapped 2 Hoarding 3 India 4 Rackets 5 Sink 6 Traits 8 Go to the wall 13 Hardware 14 Maudlin 15 Danish 17 Madder 18 Cling 20 Menu

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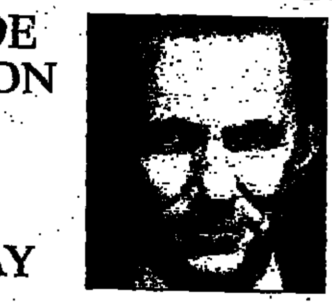
THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



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Rusedski shows no ill effects in Stockholm
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7 1997

LAHC plans bid of up to £200m

Vulture fund to swoop on GAN Life

By Caroline Merrell

A VULTURE *fund set up by* Lord Rothschild to acquire ailing insurance companies *is poised to make its most* ambitious acquisition since it was launched two years ago.

Life Assurance Holding Corporation (LAHC), partly owned by St James's Place *Capital* (SJPC), is believed to be in talks to acquire GAN Life, which has funds under management of £2.4 billion.

LAHC is in the final stages of examining GAN with the aim of making a purchase. The deal could be finalised within weeks. Analysts believe that GAN could cost up to £200 million to buy.

SJPC, where Lord Rothschild is a director and Sir Mark Weinberg, founder of Allied Dunbar and Abbey Life, is chairman, set up LAHC to buy life insurance companies that were becoming increasingly vulnerable to takeover. SJPC expected the costs of complying with a tougher regulatory regime and increasing price competition on policies to force many companies to pull out of the market.

LAHC profits are generated from the annual management fees charged to policyholders on closed funds. However, LAHC has managed to acquire only two small companies, Crown Life and *Windsor Life, and failed to* acquire Albany Life, which was bought by Canada Life, *and Provident Mutual*, which was sold to General Accident.

Weinberg: set up LAHC

GAN Life's state-owned French parent company is believed to want to finalise a deal before the end of the year. The French Government aims to privatise GAN early in 1998 but must first sell off 50 per cent of its overseas assets.

The UK division of GAN also includes a general insurance arm. In total, the UK life and general divisions comprise 50 per cent of GAN's overseas assets.

A spokeswoman for GAN Life said that the parent company had made it clear *that it was planning to sell off* its foreign assets. She said: "We have had talks with a *number of interested parties.*" She would not comment further about LAHC.

John Wybrew, LAHC chief executive, said: "Even if there is something going on, I cannot comment about it." He admitted that the company *had been in the running to* acquire Albany.

Unlike the other companies purchased by LAHC, GAN Life is still actively selling policies through its 1,200-*strong direct sales force*, which could make the company expensive to close down. GAN Life was *previously* known as General Portfolio.

Mr Wybrew believes that *less than a quarter of the* UK's 200 life companies will exist in few years' time.

As well as *part-owning* LAHC, SJPC now entirely owns J Rothschild Assurance (JRA), the company set up by Sir Mark and Mike Wilson, former Allied Dunbar managing director, with the help of Scottish Amicable. Earlier this year, as a consequence of Prudential's purchase of ScotAm, SJPC took over the entire ownership of JRA.

Following the change in structure, SJPC said to analysts that it intended to make JRA its core business, but was in talks with a foreign company about a further purchase for LAHC, which could be in cash or shares.

The sell-off of GAN Life could herald the start of further rationalisation in the *life insurance industry*. Friends Provident and NPI, both mutual life insurers, are *believed to be vulnerable to* takeover, with Prudential, Halifax and Lloyds TSB lined up as *possible predators*.

Commentary, page 29

Lord Rothschild targets life companies vulnerable to takeover

Loyalty cards help Boots to record interim result

By Fraser Nelson

LOYALTY cards launched by Boots, the chemist group, are poised to become the most widely held in the country within the next 12 months, making its scheme the most *popular on the high street*.

The company, which yesterday revealed record interim *results*, has issued *3.8 million* of its "Advantage" cards in the first ten weeks of the offer with 500,000 *applications still to* process.

It is hoping to reach eight *million of its customers within* the first year of the scheme, but the take-up has so far *overshot internal forecasts* by 20 per cent. This suggests a total of 11 million cards by the end of *next* year, against the ten million held by customers of Sainsbury, whose scheme is currently the market leader.

Boots Advantage cards, which offer a 4 per cent discount on 10,000 goods, were used for 20 per cent of its sales in the six months to September 30, helping like-for-like turnover to grow 4.8 per cent in the core Boots stores. After a £9.2 million cost of setting up the scheme, profits grew 5.9 per cent, to £253 million, before tax and exceptional items.

Lord Blyth, chief executive, said the company expects most of its 14 million regular *customers to subscribe to its* loyalty card by next September and is prepared to spend a *further £10 million bolstering* the scheme. The company hopes that the cards will *eventually* be used for 30 per cent of sales.

He added that it plans to *open 40 stores each year for* the foreseeable future and is excited about setting up in Japan while the *slump* on the country's retail property prices cotinues.

The shares fell 21½p to 868½p yesterday, as analysts said profits from the core retail chain were shy of expectations. An interim dividend of 6.7p (6.2p) is due on February 6.

Tempus, page 30

Travel firms' £1bn worry

By Marianne Curphey

THE UK travel industry could be forced to spend more than *£1 billion over the next decade* to rebrand its products if Margaret Beckett, President of *the Board of Trade, takes* tough action against alleged anti-competitive behaviour.

A comprehensive report into the way package holidays are sold was yesterday sent to Mrs Beckett by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Mrs Beckett has the option to order tour operators to change the appearance of their high street *shops to clarify their ownership*. The cost for Airtours alone could be £400 million.

The MMC has spent a year examining claims that the largest tour operators, Thom*son and Airtours, stifled com*petition by pushing their own products in their own travel agencies. *Mrs Beckett is ex*pected to take up to four months to make a decision.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4853.8	(–44.5)
Yield	3.33%	
FTSE All share	2305.56	(–16.55)
Nikkei	16533.87	(+85.82)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7650.33	(–42.24)*
S&P Composite	935.34	(–7.42)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{9}{16}$%*	($5\frac{11}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$101\frac{25}{32}$*	($101\frac{23}{32}$)
Yield	6.24%*	(6.23%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$7\frac{9}{16}$%	($7\frac{5}{8}$%)
Liffe long gilt *future (Dec)*	$117\frac{13}{16}$	($118\frac{11}{32}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6930*	(1.6823)
London:		
$	1.6915	(1.6755)
DM	2.9109	(2.8872)
FFr	9.9109	(9.6698)
SFr	2.3790	(2.3570)
Yen	208.15	(205.35)
£ Index	103.3	(102.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7188*	(1.7175)
FFr	5.7540*	(5.7535)
SFr	1.4058*	(1.4035)
Yen	123.24*	(123.08)
$ Index	104.7	(104.7)

Tokyo close Yen 122.97

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	$19.75	($19.50)

GOLD

London close	$312.45	($314.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Shell looks east

Shell is taking a hard look at *the Russian oil market and* may join forces with RAO Gazprom, Russia's gas giant, *to participate in the $1.5* billion privatisation of Rosneft. Page 28

Insurer hit

The strength of sterling, provision for losses on the *Caribbean island* of Montserrat, and an increase in UK property and motor claims have dampened Royal & SunAlliance's nine-month results. Page 29

Muted relisting expected for Costain

By Dominic Walsh

SHARES in Costain, suspended at 46p a year ago *after the* construction group hit financial difficulties, are expected to *struggle to reach 40p when* trading restarts this morning.

Earlier this week, shareholders voted to approve a refinancing that has raised £47.5 million. The restructuring leaves Costain with shareholders' funds of £26 million and net cash of *£59 million*.

The rescue rights issue, at 40p a share, was underwritten by Skanska, *the Swedish con*struction group, which has emerged with a 7.6 per cent *stake in the enlarged group*. It has an option to raise its holding to 40 per cent over *three years*, which would trigger a bid.

One City analyst pointed *out that* with small shareholders now holding just 12 per cent of the company there was unlikely *to be much* liquidity in the stock. "There won't be *many buyers, but you may see* some selling," she said. "The best one can hope for is the rights issue price of 40p, but I suspect it will come slightly off that in early trading."

Another analyst said: "The reality is that the outlook *remains uncertain. The share* issue document was peppered with cautionary com*ments and* warnings of challenging trading conditions ahead. The company is unlikely to *return* to profit this year or next."

After the reconstruction, Intria, the Malaysian construction group, has reduced its stake from 40 per cent to 37.2 per cent, while Kharafi, the Kuwaiti construction company, *has cut its holding* from 25 per cent to 19.7 per cent. Costain's bankers have exchanged *debts of* £19 *million* for a 15.1 per cent stake.

Channel 4 seeks help to expand

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

MICHAEL JACKSON, *chief executive of Channel 4*, has begun talks with British and international broadcasters to find partners to expand the channel's commercial operations and launch new digital channels.

Mr Jackson said: "We want *to make the most of every* commercial opportunity that Channel 4's brand and its *programmes present. We are* thinking through the opportunities and listening to what other people have to say to us." Channel 4 is planning to launch up to three new channels on digital terrestrial television, due to begin next autumn.

Channel 4 also plans to expand both its web site and *its publishing operations*.

Mr Jackson, who came to Channel 4 from the BBC, *does not rule out launching* a new channel based on Channel 4's 15-year pro*gramme archive*.

Media Times, page 39

Rolls-Royce Cars doubles October sales

By Kevin Eason and Adam Jones

ROLLS-ROYCE Motor Cars doubled sales last month as executives at Vickers discussed plans to *sell Britain's* most famous carmaker.

While the rest of the car *market slowed, sales of Rolls*-Royces and Bentleys were worth almost £9 million, with registra*tions up from 36 in October last* year to 73 last month.

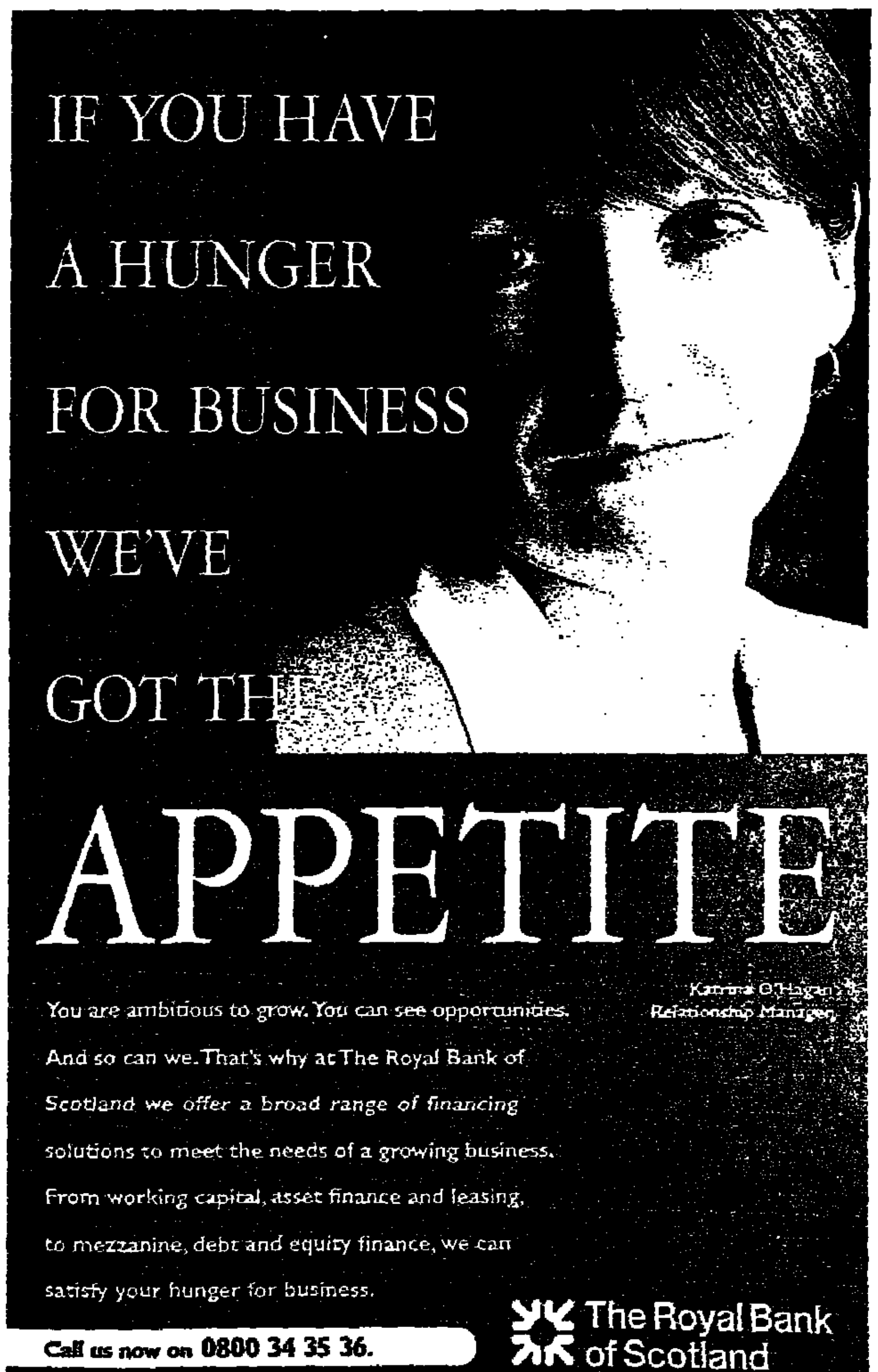
The company is revamping and *modernising* its range and widening the appeal of the sportier Bentley marque. UK sales over the first ten months jumped from 787, against 591 at the same stage of last year.

Vickers yesterday hit back at speculation that BMW, the *front-runner for Rolls, had* a clause in an existing engine supply contract allowing it to *top any rival bids. It said it* was contractually obliged to tell BMW when it started sale *negotiations* and *must* also say if the suitor is a motor manufacturer. However, it will not name them, or reveal any bid details. Vickers, which may be the subject of a hostile bid from Mayflower also hinted that the proceeds from *a Rolls-Royce sale might* fund a share buyback.

October was less rosy for *mass carmakers* as registrations of new cars slowed rapidly. Sales rose only 1.3 per cent in October to 156,706, well down on the rate of improvement through the rest of the year.

☐ Salomon Brothers said yesterday that the possible hostile bid for Vickers by Mayflower displayed "a worrying degree of hubris on the part of *Mayflower's management* if they think they are so good they could make this deal *work*". *Nick Cunningham*, an analyst, said a break-up made more sense.

New world, page 31



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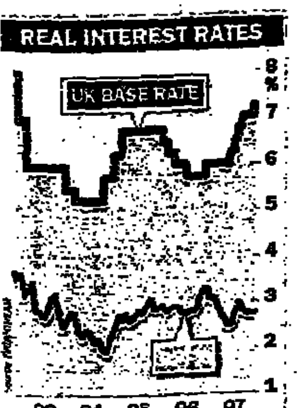
IMF warns of double danger to UK



By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

THE International Monetary Fund said *yesterday that* Britain's recent "impressive" economic performance is threatened by surging demand and a strong pound.

The IMF said it saw a double danger to the health of the economy with rapid domestic demand leading to higher inflation while the *rising pound could hit the* "frail" manufacturing sector prompting a "hard landing" for the economy next year.

The IMF report was issued shortly after the Bank of England surprised the markets by raising rates a further quarter point to 7.25 per cent. *Economists said the decision* to raise rates, so soon after a period of financial market turbulence, may have led to a split in the monetary policy committee (MPC) for the first time.

But it showed that the Bank was willing to take tough decisions to establish its credibility and is likely to be willing to *raise rates further*.

Geoffrey Dicks, UK economist at NatWest markets, said: "It enhances the anti-*inflation credentials of the MPC. In effect*, they are saying, we won't make the policy mistakes of 1987-88 again."

Analysts pointed *to the statement* issued by the committee which sent no clear signal that interest rates had peaked. In contrast, the Bank's statement in August made clear that it wanted to "pause" to reassess the economic outlook.

The interest rate rise, coupled with expectations of further rises, sent the pound soaring to a five-year high against the yen of 208.33. It climbed more than two pfennigs against the mark to DM2.9116 and reached a *four-month* high against the dollar of $1.6919. Sterling's trade-weighted index closed up 0.9 at 103.3.

The stock market took the rise largely in its stride, closing down 44.5 points at 4,863.8 after a 2.5 per cent fall in Hong *Kong and an early decline on Wall Street*.

Commentary, page 29
Economic View, page 31

مركز من الارهاب

TV groups agree joint digital launch

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television venture, and Cable & Wireless Communications, the largest cable operator, have forged an alliance to co-ordinate the launch of 200 channels of digital television in the UK.

The two sides reached a deal last night that involves both groups co-ordinating the launch date for their digital satellite and digital cable services.

Under the agreement, CWC and BSkyB will jointly promote and market the benefits of digital television to their customers.

The two sides have come together partly because of a fear that if different groups promote different forms of competing digital TV consumers will be confused and may simply avoid the technological advance.

The aim is still to launch the services in the "late spring" although this depends, among other things, on the successful launch of a new Astra digital satellite in the new year.

The promotional budget for a combined satellite and cable digital launch could be enormous. CWC has already embarked on a £50 million marketing campaign spread over six months to alert the pubic to its cable telephone and cable television services.

CWC plans to begin digital trials in a small number of homes before Christmas and can draw on the experience of Cable & Wireless, its parent company, in Hong Kong.

As part of the deal CWC would also take Sky Box Office, the planned pay-per-view movie service. Some cable companies have been reluctant to take their pay-per-view movie service from BSkyB, the consortium in which News International, owner of *The Times* has a 40 per cent stake.

Media Times, page 42

Double whammy: Alan Sugar's demerged Amstrad hopes to win a second damages claim, this time against Western Digital

Shell considers joint bid in Russia as income dips

By Carl Mortished

SHELL is looking at investing in the Russian oil market and the privatisation of Rosneft, expected to be worth $1.5 billion (£882 million). The Anglo-Dutch oil company, which yesterday announced a 5 per cent decline in third-quarter net income, is believed to be considering a joint bid with RAO Gazprom, Russia's gas group, for the oil company.

The Russian Government lifted restrictions on the foreign ownership of oil companies earlier this year and foreign and domestic enterprises are preparing bids for the Government's controlling interest in Rosneft. BP and Lukoil are also said to be interested in taking part.

A spokesman for Shell said: "We are looking at investment opportunities in Russia. We already have a relationship with Rosneft."

Shell has a link with Rosneft via their joint 7.5 per cent holding in the Caspian pipeline consortium. The Russian company has some of the best performing fields in Russia through its Western Siberian subsidiary, Purneftegaz. Rosneft's other jewel is a 40 per cent interest in Sakhalin-1, a major oil and gas exploration venture offshore of Sakhalin Island in the Pacific partnered with Exxon. Shell is a partner in the neighbouring Sakhalin-2 project.

Shell's current cost profit in the three months to September, excluding special items, rose 5 per cent to £1.1 billion. The company was badly hit by the strength of sterling which rose more than 25 per cent against European currencies and 5 per cent against the dollar.

Oil production fell 1 per cent partly because of disruption in Nigeria where attacks on Shell facilities forced the company to shut down flow stations, cutting production by 100,000 barrels per day. Natural gas sales were down but oil in the US was up 12 per cent because of new deep water output in the Gulf of Mexico.

Earnings from exploration and production fell 1 per cent to £595 million but refining and marketing current cost earnings were up 7 per cent to £451 million. Chemicals earnings fell 12 per cent to £167 million.

Tempus, page 30

Founder of Island departs

By Chris Ayres

CHRIS BLACKWELL, the 60-year-old founder and chief executive of Island Entertainment — the music and film division of Polygram whose signings include Pulp, U2 and Bob Marley — yesterday severed his contract with the company.

His departure coincides with mounting criticism of Island's failure to sign new talent, and its reliance on its lucrative back catalogue. Many have blamed Mr Blackwell for concentrating too much on his outside business interests, including a chain of cinemas and hotels.

Industry analysts believe that Mr Blackwell is unlikely to be directly replaced, but say that the presidency of Island in the US — a post which he deliberately left unfilled — will almost certainly be up for grabs.

Sources close to Polygram yesterday denied claims in the American press that Mr Blackwell had demanded a $20 million (£11.7 million) payoff, and said that no money had changed hands.

Media Times, page 42

Amstrad windfall after Seagate settlement

By Jason Nissé

FORMER shareholders in Amstrad, Alan Sugar's electronics group that was broken up earlier this year, are to receive 43p for each Amstrad share they held as a result of a £75 million legal settlement yesterday.

Seagate Technologies, the US computer components company, agreed to drop its appeal against the High Court ruling earlier this year that it was liable for supplying defective disks to Amstrad personal computers at the end of the 1980s. Amstrad had been claiming £85.5 million in damages and interest but agreed to drop the amount to enable the case to be settled.

It has a similar action against another disk supplier, Western Digital, due to be heard in a Californian court in the new year. The case has been held up by a legal wrangle over Western's lawyers, who were briefly debarred from action because of a dispute over an expert witness who had been interviewed by Amstrad.

Amstrad sources said they hope to win a similar amount of damages in the Western case as in the Seagate action. The actions arise from Amstrad's failure to break into the market for IBM compatible PCs, which was undermined by the machines' unreliablility. The failure brought a collapse in Amstrad's share price.

Viglen Technology, the former Amstrad subsidiary, which is not in charge of the litigation, is to pay out 43p each to holders of the litigation certificates distributed when the demerger of Amstrad went through in the summer. Originally these were changing hands at less than 10p each, with US securities firms such as Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan keen buyers.

Amstrad shareholders also received shares in Viglen and Betacom, which is Mr Sugar's new venture, as well as loan notes. The total package is now worth more than 300p per Amstrad share.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

News Corp revenues advance to $2.9bn

STRONG growth in UK newspapers and US television pushed operating revenues of The News Corporation, the international media group, up by 16 per cent to $2.9 billion (£1.7 billion) in the three months to September 30. Operating profit rose 7 per cent to $240 million before abnormal items, mainly foreign exchange adjustments from associate companies.

News Corp's UK newspaper operations showed a 20 per cent year-on-year gain in operating profit, with *The Sun*, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* all making gains in both advertising and circulation revenues. In the US, television enjoyed a 100 per cent rise in operating income. Filmed Entertainment fell because of comparisons with the previous year which saw the success of *Independence Day*, the hit film.

Fears for Kodak jobs

JOBS at Kodak's four UK centres are looking under threat as expectations mount that the US company is about to cut up to 14,000 staff worldwide. The photographic and imaging company employs 5,000 at factories in Nottingham, Liverpool and Harrow and at its UK headquarters in Hemel Hempstead. Kodak is expected to announce a vast cost-cutting programme next Tuesday. Analysts are predicting that it will try to cut costs by $1 billion (£625 million) with an onslaught on jobs and by consolidating businesses. Kodak employs 94,000 worldwide.

Construction orders up

CONSTRUCTION orders in the third quarter were up 7 per cent over the same period in 1996, according to statistics from the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions. Much of the increase was driven by strong growth in the private commercial sector. The seasonally adjusted figures showed that housebuilding rose 3 per cent in the quarter. Work was started on 46,800 homes. But although housing starts increased, the number of completions fell back 4 per cent in the three months to September 30.

Ofwat questions firms

THAMES WATER has scored the lowest marks of all water companies on metered bills and interruptions to supply in the latest survey of service standards by Ofwat, the regulator. Thames said a spate of burst pipes in the cold spell in January hit its interruptions record. Ofwat has demanded an explanation from South West Water of supply interruptions and an improvement plan from Welsh Water. Anglian Water has been asked to explain difficulties with metered bills. North West Water faces a call to set targets for metered bills.

Parity acquisitions

PARITY, the UK information technology company, has agreed to acquire TelTech and PSI in America for a maximum £24.6 million. TelTech is an IT consulting company based in New York with offices in Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. PSI is a related IT recruitment agency. In 1996 the businesses earned aggregate pre-tax profits of £1.4 million on revenues of £25.7 million. Parity proposes to raise £26.9 million by way of a placing and open offer of new shares at 535p each.

BCH £30m price-tag

SHARES in BCH Group, the vehicle management company, have been priced at 190p each, valuing it at about £30 million when it comes to the stock market by way of a placing with institutional investors. The placing will raise £18 million, with £15 million going to BCH mainly to redeem preference shares and preferred ordinary and repay bank borrowings. Dealings are expected to begin on November 14. BCH is based in Bristol. Its customers include Safeway, Courtaulds, ABP and Unisys.

Gyrus valued at £44.9m

GYRUS GROUP, a supplier of electrosurgical systems, will be valued at £44.9 million when its shares begin trading on the stock market next week. New shares are to be placed with institutional investors at 145p each by Panmure Gordon, raising £12 million for the company. Mark Goble, the managing director of Gyrus, said that the funds raised had fully met the company's expectations in spite of the uncertain stock market conditions. The first day of dealings will be November 13.

Approach to Faber Prest

SHARES of Faber Prest, which provides specialist services to the steel industry, rose 107½p to 345p yesterday after it said it had received an approach that might lead to a takeover "at a substantial premium to the current market price". The identity of the potential bidder was not disclosed. At yesterday's closing price the company is valued at about £39 million. The company's shares have fallen sharply over the past 12 months from 392½p, reflecting City concern about prospects for the steel industry.

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET

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It's what you want to know

Etam considers reverse takeover

By Fraser Nelson

ETAM, the troubled retailer of women's clothes, is understood to be offering itself at a knock-down price to rival New Look after returning the worst half-year results in its 74-year history.

The company, which lost £9.55 million (£5.76 million loss) before tax at the halfway stage, is believed to have been deserted by other prospective buyers, leaving a reverse takeover of New Look as its only practical option.

After seeing flat like-for-like sales growth in the six months to August 9, and bank charges almost double to £841,000, the company is now expected to lose £9.4 million by the full year, compared with a £5.37 million loss last time.

Richard Ratner, analyst at Butterfield Securities, said a marger with New Look would make strategic sense for both companies. He suggested a takeover price of 140p, but said that Etam's worsening financial health made the prospect of a takeover increasingly speculative.

He said: "The assumption is that there would be £10 million of cost savings, and that New Look would be capitalised at 21 times its earnings after further write-off costs."

Etam's new August range was an improvement, he said, but represented too little too late. The company said the new lines had lifted like-for-like sales 4.4 per cent in the past eight weeks, as seven new-format stores were opened.

New Look, which has been trading in the UK for 20 years and is privately owned, is considering joining the stock market with a £250 million valuation, whether it reverses into Etam or not.

A combined group would have a network of 610 shops, and claim the lion's share of the market for budget young female clothing.

In spite of losses of 11.87p a share (8.93p loss), Etam is holding the interim dividend, due on January 2, at 0.5p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.53	2.35
Austria Sch ...	21.48	19.82
Belgium Fr	63.25	58.29
Canada $	2.494	2.306
Cyprus Cyp£ .	0.899	0.828
Denmark Kr ...	11.67	10.78
Finland Mk ...	9.32	8.57
France Fr	10.2	9.44

Swiss Re topples millennium tower

By Adam Jones

A PLAN to give the City of London a towering symbol for the next millennium was finally abandoned yesterday.

The Millennium Tower originally proposed by Sir Norman Foster for the site of the old Baltic Exchange would have been 92 storeys high. It had been described by critics as "the NatWest Tower with Canary Wharf on top".

Kvaerner, the Anglo-Norwegian engineering company that owns the site, yesterday said it is selling it to Swiss Re, the reinsurance company, for about £80 million. Swiss Re promptly confirmed that the project will not go ahead.

However, it is still retaining Sir Norman's company, Foster & Partners, to design a building to house the majority of its UK staff, currently spread between four sites.

It is thought unlikely that the new design will be a scaled-down version of the original tower. Kvaerner is expected to make a £40 million profit on the deal, which is subject to planning and listed building consents.

☐ Kvaerner declined to comment on reports that Prudential, the financial services group, is in talks to buy Cunard. The shipping line, acquired during the takeover of Trafalgar House, is expected to return to profit next year.

Commentary, page 29

NatWest Interest Rates

Interest rates applicable to Business Overdraft Agreements* and Business Loan Agreements* are increased by 1/4% per annum with effect from

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Rate setters jump the gun

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

The love-in between the Government and the CBI took a bit of a knock yesterday as interest rates edged up and the pound ratcheted higher. Yes, of course the monetary policy committee is independent, but it was the Government which set it up and handed it the lever of monetary policy and the results are not entirely to the liking of the CBI and many of its members.

No doubt the committee had some fascinating debate before deciding to use its solitary power but, having abstained for three months, the urge to act may have overcome common sense. The consensus view in the City was that there was no need for an increase in rates. While the MPC deems the extra quarter per cent necessary to keep inflation in check, there is little evidence that the members' fears of rising prices are justified. But, as the CBI squawks, there are fears that a strengthening pound will make life difficult for exporters who already claim to have been hit by sterling.

Ironically, it is suggested that the CBI itself may have played a part in giving the MPC the ammunition it wanted to put up rates.

Yesterday morning it published its monthly distributive trades survey, a measure of confidence in the retail sector, and it showed that retail sales volumes had been building during October. The committee may have chosen to interpret this as an indication that the September slowdown had been but a monthly aberration in an upward trend, the result of national mourning over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

But the CBI survey is by no means evidence of a dangerous high street boom: 15 per cent of the respondents said that their October sales volumes were down on the previous year. Customers are still being cautious.

The MPC should have steeled itself to another month of inactivity. Instead, it has chosen to act prematurely, when the instability of international markets would have pointed towards the desirability of not interfering unnecessarily.

As a bevy of Government ministers heads to the CBI conference next week, they are likely to be berated by industrialists who put a higher pound high on their list of dislikes. Many of them indicated months ago, when the Government first took office, that they would countenance higher taxes rather than a rising pound. But the Government's determination not to be seen to lift personal taxation — although it has already found less visible ways of affecting individual wealth — has put the onus of financial engineering on the MPC.

Vulture opts for French cuisine

When Sir Mark Weinberg dreamed up the idea of a corporate retirement home for life assurance companies that could no longer stand the hectic actuarial pace, it promised to be an exercise no more taxing than catching fruit dropping from the trees.

Life assurers had lost many of the tax reliefs on which so many depended for decades to sell their products. The easy market for endowment policies geared to mortgages had collapsed. The personal pensions market had dried up because of mis-selling.

Just as smaller and medium sized life assurers face the need to take on much heavier marketing overheads, this became a double headache. The Personal Investment Authority finally set rules on disclosure of selling costs that might enable potential customers to work out who was being hopelessly inefficient at their expense.

A huge shakeout was universally predicted, as bankassurers and others with ready outlets battled it out with the top dogs of the insurance world. There have certainly been plenty of takeovers and mergers, but vulture funds looking for dead meat have not found the search as easy as they thought. Sir Mark's Life Assurance Holding Corporation (LAHC) has picked up a couple of secondary names but had to venture into the land of the living in a vain pursuit of Albany Life.

The same dilemma may attach to its interest in the former General Portfolio business, now being sold off by the French state company that unwisely bought it. GAN needs to sell to speed its privatisation. But its UK operation still has quite a substantial sales force and someone might think it worthwhile to keep selling policies.

The essence of operations such as LAHC is to gather in new funds to manage with the minimum of company overhead to go with it, apart from servicing the dwindling band of existing policyholders. But the demand for ongoing life assurers has been much bigger than expected. Every big retail financial services group seems to think it ought to have at least one. Many think they need more, so that different organisations can exploit markets by telephone, by doorstep sales force and via financial advisers. For the uncompetitive, there is still an active afterlife.

Chance to splash out for big spenders

If Rolls-Royce is just a bit out of your price range, another luxury brand name may be within range. Cunard could be yours for around £250 million, a fraction of what the ambitious Mayflower will have to pay for RR and its parent, Vickers.

But just like the elegant motors, Cunard will need a wealthy owner to keep it running. While the name still conjures images of seaborne luxury, the truth is that under the ownership of Trafalgar House the cruise company did not receive all the investment it required and during its 18 months at the helm of the business Kvaerner has not been pumping money into it.

Cruising is an increasingly popular holiday: in the past five years Britons clambering aboard have lifted the market by 20 per cent a year. But hulks like the QE2, a relic of the 1960s, do not provide what modern customers want. The QE2 is just 67,000 tonnes against the 109,000 tonnes of P&O's pride, the Grand Princess.

The Royal Viking Sun is the only ship in the Cunard fleet which rivals rate as what today's floating palaces should be. To construct a fleet of six of those might require investment of $2 billion. Pru Ventures may like the idea of owning a cruise line, but how much does it want to spend? Virgin has, inevitably, taken a look and so has Walt Disney but this is no deal for a Mickey Mouse purchaser.

Sale time at Etam

Etam, the unfashionable fashion chain, has produced yet another dismal set of figures and no cheering news of the bid it had indicated might be in the offing. With worsening losses, despite the efforts of new management and a buoyant market, it is hard to see the attractions to a bidder. But a fast growing chain is apparently still interested, for the properties and the quote rather than the brand. And what Etam certainly needs is a New Look.

Sun Life sells New Ireland

Sun Life & Provincial Holdings has sold its 83 per cent stake in its Irish life and pensions business to Bank of Ireland, which beat rival bidders for New Ireland Holdings by offering Ir£23.82 a share, valuing it at Ir£273.6 million (£246 million).

Bank of Ireland said that preconditions to its offer, announced on October 14, had been accepted by Sun Life.

The bank, which completed its £600 million acquisition of Bristol & West in July, said New Ireland represented an opportunity to "improve market penetration and access new distribution channels".

Sun Life is concentrating on its core UK markets now that it is owned by Axa-UAP, the world's second-biggest insurer.

Yates joins in property firm

Yates Brothers Wine Lodges is to receive £16 million under an agreement with Quintain Estates & Development to form an investment company focusing on licensed premises. It will initially acquire 15 Yates properties, valued at £20.3 million, to lease back to Yates. Both Yates and Quintain will put £4 million into the venture.

Yates's pre-tax profits before exceptionals rose 27 per cent, to £5.1 million, in the half year to September 28 on turnover 28 per cent up, at £44.1 million. Earnings per share were 6.5p (5.0p). An interim dividend of 1.15p (0.96p) is due on February 13.

Media blow

Megalomedia, the multimedia company chaired by Lord Saatchi, has lost £249,000 on an "extremely disappointing" investment in Multimedia, the ailing CD-Rom developer. It paid about 100p for shares that yesterday traded at 3½p, bringing a further "paper" loss of £2.8 million. Megalomedia lifted pre-tax profits 34.6 per cent to £1.2 million in its half to September 30, aided by its Computer Film acquisition. There is again no interim dividend.

Dewar's eyed

Seagram, the Canadian spirits and entertainment group, is thought to be forming a bid for Dewar's, the whisky brand that Guinness is expected to divest as part of its merger with Grand Metropolitan.

Cost savings fail to boost RSA profits

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

THE strength of sterling, provision for losses on the Caribbean island of Montserrat, and an increase in UK property and motor claims have dampened Royal & Sun Alliance's nine-month results.

Although the company said it remained on course to deliver the £175 million of cost savings forecast at the time of its merger last autumn, pretax profits were down 7 per cent to £823 million from £899 million last year. Around £110 million of the predicted cost savings have already been achieved, the company said.

The City marked the shares down 18p to 582p despite profits being in line with most analysts' expectations.

RSA is the only UK company which insures homes in Montserrat and has set aside an £11 million provision to cover losses as a result of the eruption of the volcano there this year. It is continuing to insure properties in the "safe" regions of the island.

A strong performance in North America and an increase in worldwide life profits offset the losses.

Richard Gamble, chief executive, said 3,500 jobs out of a forecast total of 5,000 had already gone as part of the cost-saving exercise.

The strong pound knocked £25 million off the pre-tax profit figures. There was a £41 million increase in property claims in the UK and a £17 million rise in subsidence losses to £86 million.

However, lower weather and catastrophe losses helped results in the US, where profits for the general business operations rose from £83 million to £129 million.

Mr Gamble played down the possibility of an acquisition in the near term, saying that acquisitions currently looked "horribly expensive".

Worldwide general insurance showed a profit of £545 million, compared with £566 last year. Earnings per share were 36.7p, down from 40.9p the previous year.

Tempus, page 30

MAM funds rise to over £100bn

By Richard Miles
Banking Correspondent

BOOMING stock markets in the first half of the year helped Mercury Asset Management to lift funds under management beyond £100 billion for the first time.

MAM said that funds under management rose to £104.4 billion in the six months to September 30, compared with £85.9 billion for the same period last year.

Pre-tax profits rose 8 per cent year-on-year to £88.4 million, but Hugh Stevenson, chairman, said operating profit from continuing activities rose 26 per cent over the period.

He attributed a sharp increase in operating expenses, up 15.6 per cent, to MAM's investment in information technology and staff costs.

Net new business amounted to £3.8 billion. During the past six months, MAM has won mandates to the run pension funds from clients such as BAA and the London Pension Fund Authority.

Stevenson: new business

Declining to comment on speculation that the Halifax was stalking MAM, Mr Stevenson did not rule out acquisitions, but said he had not "found a situation which in our view measured up to our criteria".

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Hilton ends bid talks with ITT

HILTON HOTELS yesterday ended takeover talks with ITT Corp but pledged to continue to pursue its $9.3 billion (£5.5 billion) attempt to buy the hotels and gaming company.

After a five-hour board meeting on Wednesday ITT said early yesterday it planned to go ahead with its existing $9.8 billion agreement to be purchased by Starwood Lodging Trust. However, the company believes higher bids will emerge.

Hilton contends that ITT withheld financial data that was given to Starwood. Although Starwood's bid is higher than Hilton's, the hotel company contends that its bid is more valuable because it offers more cash.

In a heated exchange Stephen Bollenbach, Hilton's chief executive, said Hilton had been "hoodwinked" in talks this week with ITT. "Finally, after ten months, we get a chance to talk and they don't talk. It's all just a trick on us."

Bowler to leave Kwik Save

By Chris Ayres

GRAEME BOWLER, the 60-year-old the chief executive of Kwik Save brought in five years ago to boost the troubled retailer's performance, will leave next August at the end of his contract.

The imminent departure of Mr Bowler emerged as the company revealed a sharp fall in profits, and a plan to fight back against its up-market competitors with higher-quality own-brand goods.

The company has also launched a £200 million investment programme.

Derek Pretty, finance director, said that customers thought the company's range needed updating and that it didn't have enough chilled and frozen food.

The company yesterday announced another set of poor results, showing a 6 per cent drop in like-for-like sales for the year to August 30.

Pre-tax profits were down 18 per cent, from £90 million to £74 million, and sales were down 7 per cent, from £3.5 billion to £3.2 billion.

Earnings per share fell from 37.68p to 27.75p. An unchanged 20p full-year dividend is due on January 8.

Consortium out to revive troubled camera chain

Young lions close in on Tecno

By Jason Nisse

THE youthful entrepreneurs behind some of Britain's most successful high-street names, including Carphone Warehouse, PizzaExpress and Richer Sounds, are to turn their expertise to reviving Tecno Retail, the chain of camera shops.

The consortium aiming to buy Tecno, in a £5 million deal expected to be concluded in the next few days, reads likes a Who's Who of young, rising business leaders.

Charles Dunstone, the 32-year-old founder of Carphone Warehouse, and his partner in the £100 million business, David Ross, are being joined by Luke Johnson, 35, who is behind the storming performance of PizzaExpress since it floated four year ago, and by Julian Richer, the father figure of the group at 38. His Richer Sounds hi-fi retailer has turnover of more than £50 million a year and he is now a retail consultant. The consortium is being advised by Ernest Saunders, the former head of Guinness jailed for his part in the Guinness scandal but released early because he was suffering from "pre-senile dementia".

The group met at the Mandrake Club, a dining group of young entrepeneurs that also includes Julian Metcalf, of Pret à Manger, and Damian Aspinall, son of John Aspinall, the casino and zoo owner.

Tecno has come onto the market because of the financial problems of its owner, Era Group, which also runs the Beatties chain of model shops. Era brought in Postern, the corporate rescue specialists, earlier this year as it was groaning under £11 million of debts.

Era will not say what it is getting for Tecno, but the sale is expected to more than halve the debts. Tecno's specialist camera shops are well regarded, and it also owns the Fox Talbot second-hand camera shops.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

RJB hits new low as big investor makes an exit

Richard Budge, of RJB, is further down on his luck

IT IS amazing how scarce friends become when someone is down on their luck. Richard Budge, chief executive of **RJB Mining**, found this out to his cost yesterday after one of his big institutional shareholders decided it was the parting of the ways.

Britain's biggest deep coal miner was the worst performer among the top 250 companies with a fall of 15p to yet another new low of 165p as eight million shares, or 5.5 per cent of the company, went under the hammer at 150p. That compared with the ruling market price at the time of 175p.

RJB has come down from a peak of 453p this year as brokers continue to take an increasingly pessimistic view of prospects for the company that bought up most of the remaining deep pits owned by the British Coal.

Only last month, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, published a damning report saying RJB could lose up to 80 per cent of its profits during the next few years. Increased competition from cheap foreign coal imports and the decision by the electricity generators to switch to cheaper gas-fuelled stations are at the root of the problem.

The rest of the equity market bore up surprisingly well to the latest quarter-point rise in bank base rates to 7.25 per cent — the fifth since Labour swept to power. At one stage the FTSE 100 index was showing a fall of 67 points, reflecting opening losses for the Dow Jones industrial average. But with Wall Street rallying strongly towards the close of business in London, the index pared back some of its losses to finish 44.5 down at 4,863.8. Turnover was again on low, with a modest 705 million shares traded.

The latest *CBI survey* also gave cause for concern, with signs that sales had begun to gather pace again last month. *There were falls among leading stores groups, with* **Kingfisher** down 21½p to 824½p. **Marks & Spencer**, 9p to 578p, *and* **Storehouse** 5p to 234p. **Boots** came off 21½p at 868½p on the back of results.

Vickers, still awaiting a response from the **Mayflower Corporation** to claims that it was planning an aggressive bid, firmed 1p to 249p. May*flower was 5½p cheaper at* 184p.

Redland, the subject of a 320p a share offer from Lafarge of France, finished 2p firmer at 331½p after Mercury Asset Management revealed it had sold 1.5 million shares at prices up to 328p. Hopes that a counter-bid for the building supplies group would emerge have begun to fade.

A buyer of one million shares at 155p got **Asda** off to a flying start as the price responded with a rise of 3p to 157p. A total of 4.21 million had changed hands by the close. **Norwich Union** stood out among the *life* assurance companies with a rise of 8½p at 359p. Brokers say there are signs of revived institutional buying. A total of 6.65 million shares were traded.

CIA Group was pegged at 163½p in spite of **WPP Group** and Blugroup picking up a further 225,000 shares. It takes their combined holding to 8.62 million shares, or 13.8 per cent. WPP rose 4p to 286½p. **Booker** *advanced 7½p to* 327½p with the help of positive comments from HSBC James Capel, the broker. However, negative comments from UBS, the broker, left **David S. Smith** 4½p cheaper at 222p.

The profits downgrading *earlier this week from* Dresdner Kleinwort Benson seems to have made little impression on **Billiton**, a newcomer, with the price rising 5½p to 183p. **Rio Tinto**, which also went under Dresdner's scalpel this week, finished 5p off at 785p.

Pilkington reduced some of Wednesday's sharp falls with a rise of 5p to 136p as some brokers came out in favour of the shares. They were hit by the news that St Gobain, its main rival, would open a major *float glass factory in* Britain before the turn of the century. Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, has been telling clients the shares have been oversold.

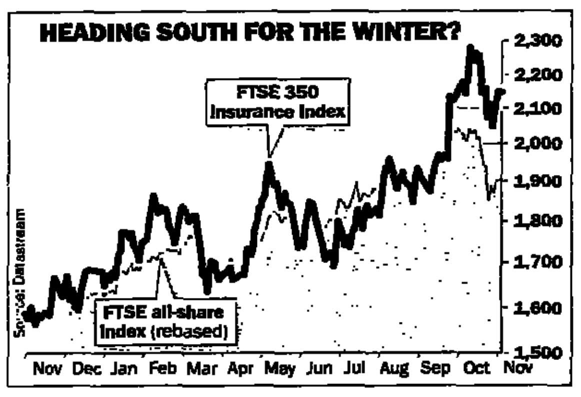
The admission from **Faber Prest** that it was in bid talks sent its shares racing away 102½p to 340p. It whetted appetites with the comment that the talks could lead to an offer being made at a "substantial premium to the current market price". At these levels, the group is capitalised at almost £40 million.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors were not particularly upset by the latest rate rise, but more by its timing. It had been hoped the Bank of England independent monetary committee would not make its move until next month, bearing in mind the recent volatility of world financial markets. Now fears are being nurtured that another rise in rates may be on the cards for next month.

It was for this reason that the short end of the market again bore the brunt of the markdown, with losses of more than £¼.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt fell £17/32 to £117 13/16 as a total of 108,000 contracts were com*pleted. In longs, Treasury 8* per cent 2021 shed £11/32 at £117 19/32, while at the shorter end, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 *was nine ticks down at* £100 25/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street drifted listlessly as investors *waited for key jobs data for* October. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 42.24 points at 7,650.33.



HEADING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER?

THE City gave a lukewarm *reception to the latest re*sults from Royal & SunAlliance with the price ending 19½p down at 580½p. *This was in spite of* moves on the part of some brokers to upgrade their year-end profit forecasts.

But brokers such as David Hudson at Credit Lyonnais Laing are unimpressed. He was again tell*ing clients, who remain* overweight in the sector, to cut their positions before it is too late.

As far as he is concerned the continued absence of any takeover action means the insurance composites are overvalued with their share prices set to head south for the winter. Margins are being squeezed *and this will become more* apparent as time goes by.

The cracks were starting to show yesterday with *Commercial Union down* 14p at 861p, while General Accident was 12p off at £10.12.

Meanwhile, rival Merrill Lynch, the broker, says that the current dividend reporting season will remind *investors of the fierce com*petitive conditions in the domestic market.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 7650.33 (-42.24)
S&P Composite .... 935.34 (-7.42)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 16533.87 (+85.82)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 10414.04 (-267.71)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 870.08 (-8.46)

Sydney:
AO .... 2571.00 (+25.20)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 3823.91 (-42.77)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1690.53 (-9.49)

Brussels:
General .... 13306.65 (-192.26)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2781.82 (-40.60)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1158.50 (-3.50)

London:
FT 30 .... 3162.5 (-27.1)
FTSE 100 .... 4863.8 (-44.5)
FTSE 250 .... 4680.4 (-6.4)
FTSE 350 .... 2353.5 (-18.0)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2527.56 (-12.06)
FTSE All-Share .... 2305.56 (-16.55)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2336.41 (-16.24)
FTSE Fixed Interest 132.13 (0.14)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 99.59 (-0.31)
Bargains 43363
SEAQ Volume 705.0m
US$ .... 1.6919 (+0.0163)
German Mark .... 2.9116 (+0.0244)
Exchange Index .... 103.3 (+0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4695
£:SDR 1.2169
RPI .... 159.3 Sep (3.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 157.8 Sep (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mngmt Zero	101¼	- ¼
BG 'B'	29¾	...
Buckland Inv Wrts	10	...
Buckland Invstmnts	17½	...
Holmes Place	170	...
Latchways (155)	165½	...
Leicester City	92½	...
Marlborough Intl	102½	...
Metalsrussia	87½	+ 1
NSB Retail Sys	167½	...
Newsquest (250)	242½	+ 2½
Nottingham Frst (70)	60	...
Nycomed Am N/V	2172½	- 7½
SHL Group	281½	...
Solitaire	190½	...
Ultraframe	177½	...
Weather Action	87½	...
Xaar	110	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Alvis Units n/p	16	+ 1
Azlan n/p (37)	13½	- 2½
Country Grdns n/p	7½	+ 4½
Jourdan T n/p (45)	1½	...
Lavendon n/p (265)	37½	...
Quicks n/p (115)	5½	...
Recognition Sys n/p	2½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
MMT Comp .... 674p (+47½p)
French Conn .... 390p (+12½p)
Waddington .... 256½p (+12p)
Euro Telecom .... 300p (+12p)
Admiral .... 630p (+17½p)
Parity .... 595p (+16½p)
Sappi .... 368p (+10p)
Scotia .... 407½p (+11p)

FALLS:
RJB .... 165p (-15p)
Hutch Whamp .... 401½p (-35p)
Liberty .... 395p (-30p)
Danka Bs Sys .... 544p (-32p)
Hall Eng .... 178p (-10p)
Stanley Leis .... 271p (-14½p)
Sun Life & Prov .... 365p (-19p)
Enterprise .... 665p (-16p)
Rckitt Colm .... 855p (-20p)
Br Petroleum .... 852p (-19p)
Williams .... 370½p (-6p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Shell out the cash

AFTER years piling up the dosh, Shell is now spending as if there were no tomorrow: buying in the outstanding half share of Montell, snapping up petrol stations from Statoil and Gulf while investing in power generation and solar power. Added to that is the possibility of a Shell stake in Rosneft, the Russian oil and gas company.

Criticised for hoarding, Shell's detractors now worry about the spending and whether or not Shell will get a decent return on its *money. By its own admission, Shell's return* on capital employed is below industry averages. The oil company wants to boost returns to the best in the industry but some *investors would prefer a cash handout.*

On the strength of yesterday's numbers, the critics may have a point. Despite huge investment, oil and gas production was down in the third *quarter and inevitably* Shell's big exposure to Far Eastern markets left it nursing large currency losses. A large integrated oil company cannot afford to avoid investing in Asia where energy *demand* growth will continue to outpace Europe and North America. However, weak production figures are more worrying and Shell is not the only oil company to fail to keep pace with demanding growth targets.

The Centre for Global Energy Studies predicts *that* non-Opec oil output growth next year will be 1.2 million barrels, well short of industry forecasts of 1.5 million. Part of the reason is a shortage of rigs but the technical demands of drilling *in ever deeper water and disruption in* political hotspots, such as Nigeria, are taking their toll. This is no reason to abandon Shell but expectations of soaring output will need to be trimmed.

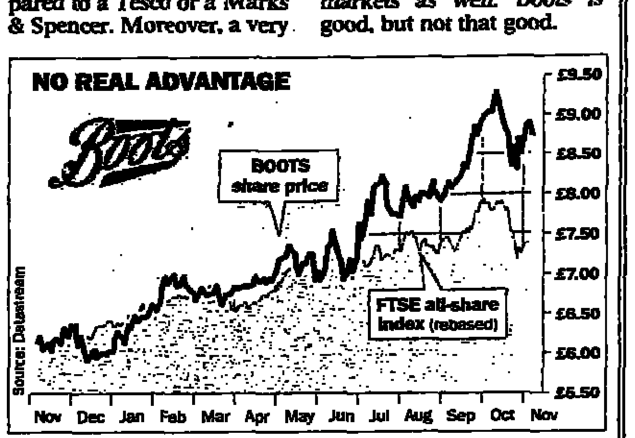
Boots

BOOTS yet again scooped up a large dollop of the cash in the purse of the average British shopper. Sales growth *of 7 per cent would be the envy* of many retailers but Boots the Chemist never seems to get the full cost advantage of *the footfall in its high street* stores. Profits this time were depressed by investment in *the* Boots' Advantage card *and the Diana factor.* After several years of good sales increases, profits growth at the core business is acceptable rather *than* exceptional and one is tempted to conclude that more sales at Boots means more hands on deck.

The solution to that problem is more goods in the store but Boots has trimmed rather than widened its product offering. All of which raises some interesting questions about the shops' new loyalty card. Boots reckons that extra sales will cover the cost *of running Advantage card* while the real asset is customer information.

The theory is that custom*er profiling will enable Boots* to mailshot customers with product offers but Boots product range is small compared to a Tesco or a Marks & Spencer. Moreover, a very large part of the Boots range — medicines — is excluded *from the scheme* due to retail price maintenance.

Boots is looking expensive, priced on a similar *share rating to* Marks & Spencer, a retailer which not only expands into new products but dominates their *markets* as well. *Boots is* good, but not that good.



NO REAL ADVANTAGE

Royal & Sun

MOTOR insurance has been a grim business for several years. The composites keep claiming they have spotted the end of the cycle, but every time they try to increase premium rates, along comes another upstart direct insurer to undercut them. Despite this, insurers do their best to hang on to motor customers because they provide the core database from which they can cross-sell other products.

Behind Royal & SunAlliance's motor result lies another *worrying development* for the insurers — an increase in personal injury claims. People who need hospital *treatment after a crash* are beginning to adopt the American "sue and see" mentality.

Meanwhile, motor insur*ance continues to be highly* competitive. Royal & SunAlliance admitted yesterday to losing about 100,000 cus*tomers in its direct motor* insurance operation — a fall of 10 per cent — because it refused to write business at any price or chase market share. It is in the commercial lines where Royal & SunAlliance has succeeded in making some price increases stick. Nevertheless, the composites will continue to write motor business, even if it is barely profitable because they cannot afford to jettison a customer base. Signs that Royal is trimming its portfolio and achieving its planned cost reductions warrant sticking with the shares.

MAM

BRITAIN may no longer have a credible candidate for the title of global bank but it *may have a contender for the* laureate of global fund manager. At least, that's what Mercury Asset Management *would have us think.*

At yesterday's announcement of a less-than-inspiring set of interims, Hugh Steven*son, the chairman, went out* of his way to emphasise the group's expansion overseas. Germany, Switzerland and Japan had all been areas of considerable growth, he said.

But the City, so long enamoured with MAM, is not buying his story. Having made little impact in the US, the largest single market for fund management, MAM's claims that it can be a world leader in its field have fallen on deaf ears.

Global ambitions aside, MAM also reported a sharp rise in operating expenses, largely because of increased staff costs. True, the headcount has risen by about 10 *per cent in the past six* months, mostly in the information technology department, but the company is *also paying more. After all,* fund managers like Carol Galley don't come cheap. Deserving or not, it makes little *sense to featherbed the opera*tion when performance in the main pooled pension fund looks weak. Investors should *take note and sell.*

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH FUNDS

[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 199242	Dec 97	118-13	118-14	117-15	117-26	108261
	Mar 98	118-26	118-26	118-04	118-13	2237
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 268365	Dec 97	102.49	102.56	102.19	102.30	143305
	Mar 98	101.78	101.78	101.55	101.61	1173
German Govt Bond (Bobl) Previous open interest 20159	Dec 97	103.45	103.47	103.27	103.38	11369
	Mar 98	102.75	102.75	102.65	102.70	800
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 114678	Dec 97	111.77	111.77	111.25	111.34	47254
	Mar 98	111.84	111.84	111.46	111.49	672
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	130.65	130.77	130.63	130.73	1211
	Mar 98	*129.75*	*129.88*	*129.76*	*129.83*	*320*
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.59	92.59	92.39	92.39	97053
	Mar 98	92.54	92.54	92.31	92.31	82780
Previous open interest 663238	Jun 98	92.56	92.57	92.32	92.33	67789
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1808871	Dec 97	96.22	96.23	96.19	96.21	55292
	Mar 98	95.94	95.95	95.91	95.94	63544
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 502279	Dec 97	93.70	93.70	93.64	93.65	14553
	Mar 98	94.43	94.44	94.35	94.36	21193
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 190047	Dec 97	97.94	97.94	97.96	97.92	14143
	Mar 98	97.76	97.76	97.68	97.72	10004
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 37156	Dec 97	95.36	95.36	95.33	95.34	1641
	Mar 98	95.27	95.28	95.23	95.26	1094
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 74017	Dec 97	4919.0	4942.0	4868.0	4891.0	10359
	Mar 98	4945.0	4945.0	4945.0	4933.0	74

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse [illegible]
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 11 Low [illegible] Week fixed: [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible] : 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible] : 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open [illegible], close 11.

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.58	n/a	5.69	5.73	5.86
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $312.70-313.00 **Close:** $312.20-312.70 **High:** $312.80-313.30
Low: $310.75-311.25 **AM:** $312.25 *PM:* $312.05

Krugerrand: $312.00-314.00 (£184.25-186.25)

Platinum: $398.00 (£235.70) **Silver:** $4.87 (£2.875) **Palladium:** $203.00 (£120.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 6	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2526-3.2869	3.2790-3.2826	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	59.510-60.190	60.022-60.142	20-15pr	56-49pr
Copenhagen	10.073-11.101	10.073-10.083	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.1094-1.1227	1.1192-1.1213	13-7pr	37-30pr
Frankfurt	2.8853-2.9165	2.9095-2.9123	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	294.55-297.82	297.02-297.36	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	243.70-246.29	245.70-246.01	48-37pr	146-127pr
Milan	2826.2-2857.3	2849.6-2853.8	21-6pr	62-39pr
Montreal	2.3452-2.3734	2.3689-2.3712	0.69-0.63pr	1.42-1.33pr
New York	1.6754-1.6938	1.6910-1.6920	0.24-0.22pr	0.688-0.657pr
Oslo	11.795-11.886	11.864-11.879	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.6610-9.7660	9.7447-9.7518	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.626-12.708	12.670-12.696	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	205.78-208.70	208.04-208.26	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	20.321-20.528	20.478-20.498	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3576-2.3806	2.3775-2.3806	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4313-1.4322
Austria	12.11-12.12
Belgium (Com)	35.49-35.54
Canada	1.3998-1.4003
Denmark	6.5548-6.5568
France	5.7645-5.7720
Germany	1.7222-1.7227
Hong Kong	7.7320-7.7340
Ireland	1.5054-1.5104
Italy	1686.75-1687.75
Japan	123.07-123.17
Malaysia	3.2830-3.2925
Netherlands	1.9414-1.9419
Norway	7.0155-7.0175
Portugal	175.85-175.95
Singapore	1.5705-1.5720
Spain	145.43-145.53
Sweden	7.4904-7.4974
Switzerland	1.4056-1.4066

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6906-1.6933
Australia dollar	2.4219-2.4251
Bahrain dinar	0.6255-0.6395
Brazil real*	1.8605-1.8650
China yuan	13.751-14.051
Cyprus pound	0.8405-0.8595
Finland markka	8.6000-8.7410
Greece drachma	448.25-458.75
Hong Kong dollar	13.0764-13.0875
India rupee	60.50-61.80
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5035-0.5145
Malaysia ringgit	5.5522-5.5716
New Zealand dollar	2.7085-2.7123
Pakistan rupee	72.30 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0425-6.1775
Singapore dollar	2.6560-2.6601
S Africa rand (com)	8.0030-8.1720
U A E dirham	6.0940-6.2310

Barclays Treasury = *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	834	Legal & Gn	2,800
ASDA Gp	5,000	Lloyds TSB	7,100
Abbey Ntl	2,300	LucasVarity	1,400
Allnce & Leic	1,100	Marks Spr	7,500
Allied Dom	3,300	NatWst Bk	1,500
AB Foods	836	Nat Grid	3,300
BAA	1,700	Nat Power	4,300
BAT Inds	4,900	Next	2,400
BG	4,600	Norwich Un	6,700
BOC	725	Orange	1,000
BP	5,700	P & O	2,500
BSkyB	3,100	*Pearson*	*1,000*
BTR	6,700	PowerGen	1,200
BT	11,100	Prudential	3,000
Bk of Scot	2,200	RMC	243
Barclays	1,900	Railtrack	554
Bass	1,300	Rank Group	4,900
Billiton	*6,400*	*Reckitt Col*	*1,100*
Blue Circle	1,300	Reed Intl	3,300
Boots	2,000	Rentokil	895
BAe	861	Reuters	1,700
BA	6,600	Rio Tinto	2,200
British Land	985	Rolls Royce	1,200
Brit Steel	2,400	Royal & Sun	3,900
Cable Wire	3,700	Royal Bk Sct	1,100
Cadbury	1,800	Safeway	5,400
Carlton Cms	939	Sainsbury	3,600
Centrica	3,700	Schroders	60
Cm Union	2,100	*Scot & New*	502
Dixons	977	Scot Power	2,900
EMI	3,000	Svrn Trent	1,600
Energy Gp	716	Shell Trans	16,800
Enterpr Oil	807	Siebe	784
GKN	150	SmKl Bch	7,900
GRE	*1,100*	*Smiths Inds*	*325*
GUS	1,300	Std Chartd	1,700
Gen Acc	427	Sun Life	202
Gen Elec	7,900	TI Gp	612
Glaxo Well	4,300	Tesco	2,900
Granada	1,300	Thames W	1,200
Grand Met	8,100	Tomkins	1,300
Guinness	3,400	Unilever	5,800
HSBC	4,000	Utd Utilities	531
Halifax	2,900	Utd News	654
Hays	744	Vodafone	6,800
ICI	1,800	Whitbread	1,400
Kingfisher	1,000	Williams	4,900
LASMO	6,000	Wolseley	484
Ladbroke	1,200	Woolwich	1,200
Land Secs	494	Zeneca	1,600

WALL STREET

[illegible]

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why this interest rate rise will probably be the last

The Bank has done what is right to fight inflation and win public support

If the Confederation of British Industry is against something, it is probably a good idea. I was therefore relieved to read the following headline on Reuters yesterday a few minutes after the Bank of England announced that interest rates were going up: "CBI regrets UK rate rise, wants policy on hold 'into next year'." I was even more pleased to read a few minutes later that the Bank of England's decision had been welcomed by the Institute of Directors, the small business lobby group, which has had a consistently better record than the CBI dinosaur in adapting to the dramatic changes in Britain's economic and political climate over the past 20 years.

The CBI's response deserves attention because it perversely summarises both the bad and the good about yesterday's decision. The bad news — or at least the unpleasant news — is that interest rates had to rise. Any tightening of monetary policy is unpleasant, even though the monetary policy committee (MPC) was in my view right to tighten by one more notch and to do so immediately, rather than waiting for another month or two as City experts had predicted. The good news — and here I mean genuinely good news — is that interest rates are now likely to remain at this level for a long time and not just for the few months implied by the CBI's pusillanimous call for stability "into next year".

Since this column has not made a habit of welcoming higher interest rates in the past, it seems worth examining in detail both the tactical and the strategic arguments which must have confronted the MPC yesterday.

The tactical arguments for moving yesterday were particularly clear cut: if interest rates were going to rise at all in the foreseeable future, the best time to act was this month. When the Bank last raised interest rates on August 7, it supplemented its usual terse announcement with a clear suggestion that monetary policy would be kept unchanged for several months. This position was amplified a few days later in the Bank's quarterly *Inflation Report*. The report pointed to five areas of uncertainty about the state of the economy and the financial markets which justified a "pause for reflection" before any further monetary moves. The Bank's five main areas of uncertainty were as follows: the impact on sterling of the preparations for European monetary union; the effect of the strong pound on exports and manufacturing output; the evidence of inflationary pressures in the labour market; the response of consumer spending to building society windfalls; and developments in the money supply figures.

The Bank's clear implication in August was that its "pause for reflection" would last about three months — until the publication of the next *Inflation Report*, which comes out next Wednesday. As a result, the financial markets always expected November to be the crucial month when the MPC would review look all the new evidence accumulated since August and decide on its next move.

If a further monetary tightening was likely to be necessary some time in the near future, there was only one tactical reason for delay. This was the fear of instability in financial markets. Financial economists in the City, whose bonuses depend on the level of the stock market at the end of the year, were naturally much impressed by this argument. The crash in the stock market was never likely to bother the MPC nearly as much — particularly since the stock market has "uncrashed" since last Monday and is now exactly where it was before the last increase in interest rates.

The real issue for the MPC was therefore strategic, not tactical. On the basis of the five uncertainties highlighted in August, was a further slight increase in interest rates justified to be sure of hitting the 2.5 per cent inflation target? Or would such a tightening transform next year's inevitable economic slowdown into a more serious slump? Consider the Bank's five criteria one by one.

On the last two points — the building society windfalls and the monetary figures — developments in the past three months have broadly confirmed the Bank's earlier view that the risks to inflation ramained biased slightly to the upside. The windfalls appear to have been mostly saved, rather than spent, implying that the inevitable slowdown in consumer spending next year due to this factor should not be unduly severe. Monetary growth has changed little since August and shows no sign of the deceleration that monetarists believe will be necessary to attain the 2.5 per cent inflation target.

Turning now to the more important factors. Despite the near-certainty that EMU would go ahead and the Government's unambiguous announcement that Britain would stay out, sterling had fallen by 3 per cent since early August — from a trade-weighted index of 105.5 on the eve of the last rate rise to 102.4 yesterday morning. This suggested that sterling's strength could not be blamed on investors searching for a safe haven from EMU. By yesterday it must have seemed clearer to the MPC that the pound was being sustained by more fundamental factors — the strength of the British economy and the sound balance of payments, as well as the high level of interest rates deemed by the Bank itself to be necessary to control inflation. From the Bank's point of view, therefore, the only way to continue putting downward pressure on sterling would be to undo some of the positive fundamentals sustaining the pound. Ultimately the pound could be brought down by natural causes, if economic growth decelerates or the balance of payments suffers from the strong pound. Alternatively, the Bank could deliberately keep interest rates below the level it deems necessary to hit its inflation target — but this is an option which the MPC is obviously bound to reject.

On trade and manufacturing, the Bank's second area of uncertainty, the picture has also become clearer since August. The strong pound has continued to restrain exports and industrial profits, but the impact remains much less catastrophic than most economists (not to mention industrialists) had expected. The current account remains in surplus, despite the fact that Britain is in the midst of a consumer boom while most of our trading partners are only just emerging from recession. Manufacturing output continues to grow at a steady, if modest, annualised rate of 1.5 to 2 per cent. And Britain's exports have continued growing, with the recovery in continental Europe making up for much of the loss of competitiveness caused by the strong pound.

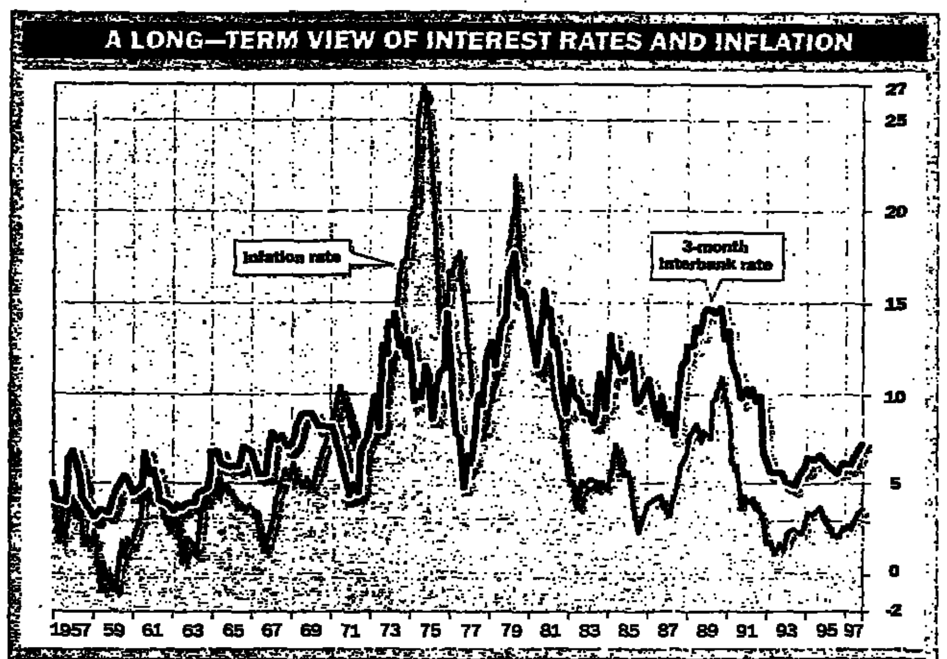
Turning to the labour market, the arguments for and against monetary tightening must have remained finely balanced yesterday. Wage inflation has accelerated very slightly. Unemployment has continued to decline, but the rate of improvement has ominously slowed.

The slackening rate of job creation should deter the MPC from overdoing its monetary tightening. The Bank's top priority in its first year of independence should surely be to win the confidence of the public. There is one necessary and sufficient condition for central bank independence to win political credibility. The MPC must convince the public that there is no contradiction between the pursuit of low inflation and the achievement of full employment.

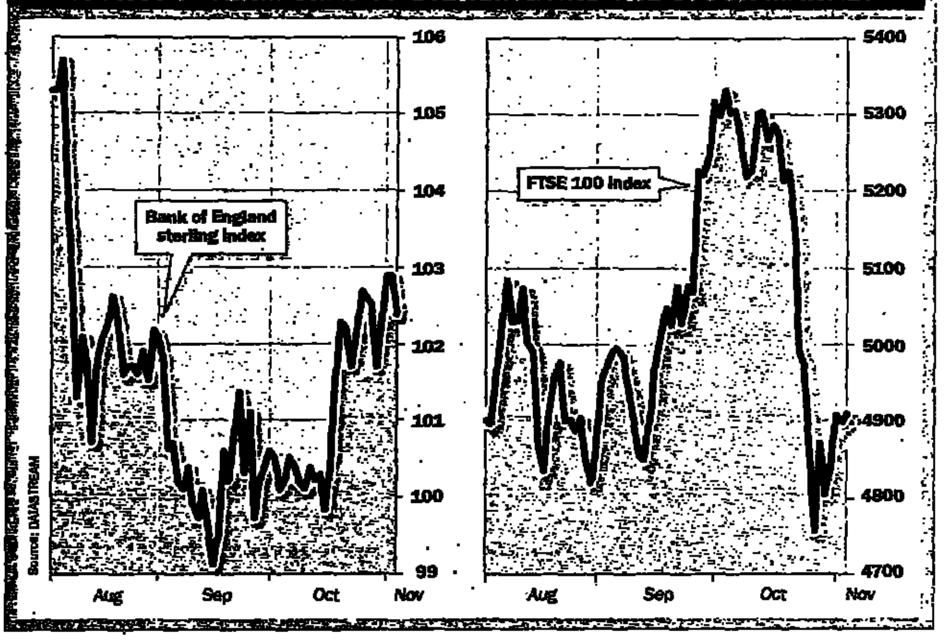
In America, the Federal Reserve Board has managed to prove precisely this point, forcing instinctive opponents of central bank independence (myself included) to eat humble pie and take a more charitable view of Gordon Brown's decision to hand responsibility for demand management to the Bank. But the MPC realises that it will take it years to establish a record comparable to the Fed's and win the corresponding public support. In the months ahead, therefore, the MPC must prove that it can keep inflation down without pushing up unemployment.

In the long run, public support must be any central bank's over-riding objective. In winning this support, the Bank cannot afford to miss its inflation target in its first few years of operation. That was why it was right to raise interest rates yesterday. But equally, the Bank cannot afford to be acquiescent in high unemployment or snuff out economic growth. That is why I feel fairly confident that this rate increase will be the last for a long time.

A LONG—TERM VIEW OF INTEREST RATES AND INFLATION



A SHORT—TERM VIEW OF STERLING AND THE STOCK MARKET



Source: DATASTREAM

Now Mayflower sets its sights on a new and bigger world

Adam Jones looks at the unlikely success story of the manufacturing company that is stalking Vickers

The stalking of Vickers came at an inconvenient time for the City analysts who have followed Mayflower's remarkable rise under John Simpson, its shaven-headed chief executive.

Many were away from their screens when Mayflower's interest in Vickers was trumpeted to the market on Wednesday. Their location? The US, on a fact-finding mission with Mayflower. While this sounds like a perfect coincidence, the two key executives were not with them.

Mr Simpson, 54, and David Donnelly, the finance director, were back in the UK, masterminding a damage limitation exercise after the news of their interest leaked out.

The reputations of both men as well as that of Rupert Hambro, non-executive chairman, have grown through the Nineties as Mayflower transformed from a listed company shell, culled from a stumbling toymaker, to become walking and talking proof that manufacturing can still be a go-go sector in the UK.

In the Mayflower boardroom, Mr Hambro has been described as the man with the contacts, Mr Simpson as the man with the hard business vision.

Before the two men joined forces to create the listed company, Mr Simpson was a precocious employee of Bunzl, the packaging machinery company, a divisional managing director at the age of 28.

After leaving Bunzl, he and business partners built up a private group of companies called Timelaw. Its main company was Ribbons, where products included car seatbelts and parachute webbing. Meanwhile, Mr Hambro was wondering what to do with a toymaker to financial services outfit called Triangle Trust, effectively a shell company. Mr Simpson and his partners sold Timelaw to the trust in 1989, the name was changed to Mayflower, and the unlikely success story began.

Landmarks in the subsequent growth of Mayflower include the acquisition from the receiver in 1991 of Motor Panels, the car body maker with operations in the UK and US. The company now makes the Rover MGF body for BMW and the Land Rover Discovery shell.

Then there is the purchase from receivers of IAD, one of the finest automotive design and engineering companies in Europe. The design credentials possessed by IAD — which helped create the chic Mazda MX-5 before being bought — will become increasingly important as Vickers seeks to portray Mayflower as an oafish metal-basher.

In spite of the success, Mr Simpson keeps a low profile, generally refusing interviews, and has been described as tough but quiet in demeanour. However, his taste in clothes and menacing goatee do not suggest someone who is keen to shrink into the background. Nor do his hobbies. He is a motor racing fan and sometime driver. His enemies would suggest that the Vickers bid can, therefore, be dismissed as a "boy's toys" escapade, hatched by someone who would like nothing better than to buy Cosworth Formula One, the engines business, and then sit in his office, shouting "Brmm!Brmm!" at anyone who crosses his threshold.

The reality is likely to be different. One analyst says that Mayflower aims to create a company spread across as many as six divisions, each with an operating profit of about £50 million a year.

The automotive division is already there, and Mayflower has started to venture into aerospace design with a British Aerospace link-up, which should account for another division. Rolls-Royce, Cosworth and Vickers' nifty propulsion technology businesses would go a long way towards filling the remaining vacancies.

But the defence arm of Vickers will not be a part of the plan. If Mayflower chooses to make a bid, shareholders will have to make a judgment on the company's ability to sell this division quickly in a rapidly emptying market.

Thus far, Mayflower has been an extremely nimble player in a sector full of cloggers. Mr Simpson must not be bogged down driving tanks when he should be at the wheel of a racing car.

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

INTERIM RESULTS - SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

	6 Months to 30 Sept 1997 (Unaudited)	6 Months to 30 Sept 1996 (Unaudited) Restated	12 Months to 31 Mar 1997 (Audited) Restated
	£m	£m	£m
TURNOVER	427.1	444.0	954.1
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	54.9	54.8	113.8
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(10.4)	(13.2)	(34.2)
Tax on exceptional items	-	-	17.3
'Windfall tax' (see Note 3)	(118.3)	-	-
PROFIT/(LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PARENT COMPANY	(73.8)	41.6	96.9
Dividend on non-equity shares	(4.5)	(4.5)	(9.0)
RETAINED PROFIT/(LOSS)	(78.3)	37.1	87.9
Earnings per equity share (see Note 4):			
Basic	(77.1p)	37.1p	87.5p
Exceptional items	116.5p	(1.8p)	(6.9p)
Earnings per share before non-operating exceptional items	39.4p	35.3p	80.6p

Notes:

1. The accounting policies applied in the preparation of these accounts are in accordance with those set out in the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1997 with the exception of the following:
   - an average electricity cost for the year as a whole is used in order to establish an appropriate cost of sales in the non-franchise market.
   - certain software development costs are now capitalised and amortised over the expected life of the relevant projects. This has resulted in prior period adjustments which increase profit on ordinary activities before taxation by £4.1m in the six months to 30 September 1996 and by £10.8m in the year to 31 March 1997.
2. The taxation charge for the six months has been arrived at by applying the estimated effective tax rate for the financial year.
3. The Finance Act (2nd) 1997 included the introduction of a one time 'windfall tax' equal to 23% of the difference between the price paid for the company upon privatisation and the Labour government's assessed 'value' of the company as calculated by reference to a formula set forth in the July budget. The tax is payable in instalments in December 1997 and December 1998.
4. Earnings per ordinary share are based on the profit for the period, after deducting dividend on non-equity shares, and on the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period.

"Profit before tax was unchanged from the previous year as improved profits from our generation investments and lower interest were offset by the higher pension costs which resulted from the abolition of ACT for pension funds announced in the July budget."

Gregory E. Abel, President and Chief Operating Officer

REGISTERED ADDRESS: NORTHERN ELECTRIC plc, CARLIOL HOUSE, MARKET STREET, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 6NE. REG NO. 2366942

German leave

THE stress may be showing at BZW, now firmly in the sights of Credit Suisse First Boston. While staff down at Canary Wharf gnash their teeth and rend their clothes over Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette's decision to drop out of the bidding, leaving just the one potential purchaser, some of their colleagues in Germany have voted with their feet. Word reaches me that four or five of BZW's equities team in Frankfurt have jumped ship in the past few weeks and gone off to join Merrill Lynch. Perhaps a case of better the devil you know than the devil you don't?

Incidentally, Allen Wheat, CSFB's £7 million-a-year (allegedly) American boss and the man who will take most of the credit for any bargain-basement purchase of BZW, has clearly thrived since he jumped ship from the Eurobond desk of Bankers Trust a few years ago. I am reminded that, by contrast, his number two at Bankers Trust has not done quite as well. He was an aggressive, bearded Australian called Ron Baker. He chose to go to Barings. The rest is history.

"Don't tell anyone, but I actually think I'm beginning to miss the Tories"

☐ *A SINISTER announcement in* The Wall Street Journal. *Smith Barney has warned some investment bankers, analysts and salesmen that once the merger with Salomon Brothers is completed "they will be terminated". Saves on redundancy payments, you see. Hasta la vista, baby.*

Lub-a-dub

NEWS that Chris Blackwell, founder of Island Records, has finally lost interest and quit reminds me of the time his unflappable right-hand man, Marc Marot, showed me around the Island headquarters in Chiswick. Converted from a couple of town houses, it was a warren of scattered rooms and sound-proofed studios. We stood in a normal suburban hall, in front of what looked like a broom cupboard. "I wonder what's in here?" said Marot, and opened the door.

Inside, in the pitch darkness, could just be made out several pairs of white eyes. As the door opened, out poured a deafening "lub-a-dub, lub-a-dub" of reggae music and a dense cloud of aromatic smoke. We looked at the eyes through the smoke: the eyes looked back. This worldless tableau held for about four seconds. "Well, passing on ..." said Marot imperturbably, closing the door again.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Different key

ON A different note, a chance encounter with the former newsreader Jan Leeming in Malta is behind this Sunday's recital by a promising Greek-Peruvian pianist — they tell me he is promising, and I feel in no position to argue — at the Stationers' Hall on Ludgate Hill. The event is in aid of Fight for Sight, a charity of which Leeming is a patron.

Its chairman is Clive Stone, immediate past president of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, and the concert was arranged for the liverymen and freemen of all the City livery companies, although everyone is welcome. Babis Kapelis will play works by Bach, Chopin, Albeniz and Jerry Lee Lewis. Guess which one I made up.

☐ *A BLISTERING note on Tottenham Hotspur from Guy Feld, analyst at UBS. He highlights poor player purchasing which has destroyed £14 million of shareholder value, pointing out that "Tottenham's playing form continues to be indifferent at best". Words that could almost have come from an Arsenal supporter — which indeed Feld is, with a season ticket. "I come from a family of Tottenham supporters and I've been a buyer of the stock," says Feld. Just don't try it on the terraces at White Hart Lane.*

Bullish

GEORGE BULL of GrandMet introduces the shareholders' circular on the Guinness merger: "I apologise for the length and complexity of these documents. But I am afraid this cannot be avoided." GrandMet watchers believe this is the first time the chairman, whose presentations to the City can provide a level of detail that overwhelms even the keenest analyst, has apologised for being long-winded.

MARTIN WALLER

George Bull apologised for the length and complexity of circulated documents

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Equities close above their worst

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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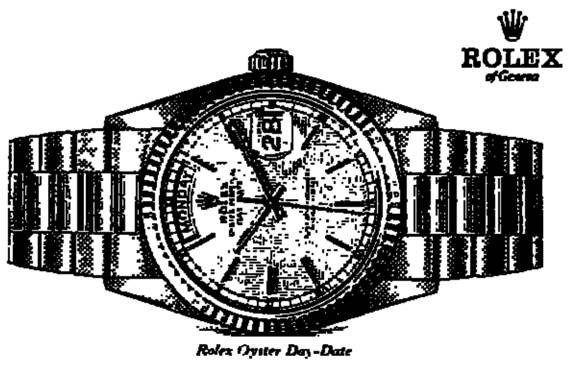

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THE TIMES

Portfolio

£2,000 to be won

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	PowerGen	Elecry	
2	Bespak	Healthcare	
3	Nthn Foods	Food Man	
4	Nat Powr	Elecry	
5	Icelnd Gp	Ret Food	
6	Redland	Bld Mats	
7	ASDA Group	Ret Food	
8	Zambia Cppr	Mining	
9	Boosey Hwks	Leisure	
10	Rank Grp	Leisure	
11	Celltech	Pharm'cals	
12	Jermyn	Property	
13	GUS	Ret Gen	
14	Amvescap	Oth Fin	
15	Br Airways	Transport	
16	Londn & Man	Insurance	
17	LPA Ind	Electronic	
18	Wolseley	Bld Mats	
19	Man Utd	Leisure	
20	Hardy Hansn	Breweries	
21	Capital Radio	Media	
22	Orange	Telecomms	
23	WMC	Mining	
24	BBA	Engin'ing	
25	Morris Ashby	Engin'ing	
26	PSD	Sup Serv	
27	Hmpdn Gp	Ret Gen	
28	MITIE Gp	Sup Serv	
29	Hitachi Cred	Oth Fin	
30	IMI	Engin'ing	
31	Kwik Save	Ret Food	
32	Cble&Wr Cm	Telecomms	
33	Britax	Eng, Veh	
34	Nthn Irlnd	Elecry	
35	TI.	Engin'ing	
36	Millen & Cop	Leisure	
37	KBC Adv T	Oil & Gas	
38	Sth Staffs	Water	
39	Proteus Intl	Pharm'cals	
40	Capita Gp	Sup Serv	
41	Con Ritblat	Property	
42	UniChem	Healthcare	
43	Salvsn (C)	Sup Serv	
44	Davis Serv	Sup Serv	

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Portfolio

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DAILY DIVIDEND

+ 36

Claims required for + 36 pts

Claimants should ring 0171-481 3388 between 9.30am-3pm

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals to match the weekly dividend published in the *Sunday Times* to win £5,000

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total

There were no winners of yesterday's game and the prize money rolls over to £2,000 today

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	138.51	147.58†	− 0.61	...
Do NAV to Dec 10	138.83	138.83	...	...
UK Equity Safeguard	109.01	116.47	− 0.20	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 15	106.93	106.93		
Cash	951.29	956.05†	..	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	351.50	373.90†	− 1.20	1.74
UK Small Cos	79.18	84.07†	+ 1.90	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	98.71	103.42	+ 0.29	2.11
Geared UK Index	2198.60	2327.05†	− 37.09	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	80.67	83.34	− 0.09	
Monthly Inc	41.14	44.01†	.	8.70
International Funds				
American Gen	285.60	301.30†	+ 0.49	...
American Smll	262.56	280.59	+ 1.80	
JG US Index	2198.81	2316.79†	...	4.00
European Gen	317.30	334.70	− 0.70	..
European Smll	139.27	149.94	− 0.30	.
Japan Gen	112.70	118.98†	− 0.40	..
Asia Pacific	72.94	77.85†	− 0.61	..
Pacific Smll	121.80	130.26	− 1.80	..
Greater China	225.55	241.23	− 4.30	.
Latin America	105.52	112.04	− 1.30	..
Int Growth	169.13	180.88	+ 0.30	..
Balanced Exempt	155.80	161.30		.
Global Strategy	49.98	53.44	+ 0.25	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	811.80	863.60	− 3.70	2.83
General Inc	661.70	703.90	− 2.90	2.82
UK Growth Acc	562.50	598.30	− 2.70	2.50
UK Growth Inc	355.60	378.20	− 1.70	2.50
Higher Inc Acc #	1025.80	1091.00	− 3.00	4.66
Higher Inc Inc #	526.80	560.40	− 1.80	4.66
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	228.50	241.40	− 0.10	5.71
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.17	100.50	− 0.10	5.71
Nth America	428.50	455.80	+ 2.50	...
Europe	431.80	459.10	− 1.20	0.81
Brit Exmpt	112.30	119.40	− 0.60	2.33
Brit Fndmtls Acc	140.50	149.40	− 0.40	4.68
Brit Fndmtls Inc	90.08	95.84	− 0.27	4.68
Global Opps	110.00	117.00	− 0.30	0.30
Balanced Acc	71.33	75.88	− 0.18	2.52
Balanced Inc	65.19	69.35	− 0.18	2.52
Japan Acc	35.34	37.59	+ 0.06	
Pac Basin Acc	291.50	310.10	− 2.40	1.54
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	141.10	149.80		6.80
High Inc Equity	214.10	228.00†	− 1.40	4.40
Worldwide Bond	268.60	282.70†	+ 0.90	3.50
American Growth	517.50	552.40	+ 6.30	0.30
Asian Pacific	244.70	261.70	− 1.90	0.53
Assets & Earnings	330.80	359.80†	− 1.60	2.64
Euro Capital Acc	234.10	250.40	+ 0.70	0.80
Extra Inc	42.97	45.71†	− 0.23	9.10
General	308.70	329.40	− 1.80	2.99
Global Opps	76.28	81.15	− 0.11	0.39
Japan	81.09	86.65	− 0.45	...
Managed Inc	51.38	54.65†	− 0.15	4.12
Worldinvest	182.40	195.10	− 0.40	1.14
US Emerging Cos	223.60	239.10	+ 2.00	...
Ethical	88.74	94.40	− 0.09	1.94
International	142.00	151.10	+ 0.10	0.58
Dividend & Growth	79.52	84.60	− 0.30	4.13
Global Gwth & Sec	77.68	82.96	+ 0.11	2.43
Latin America	80.09	85.20	− 0.72	0.79
Capital Reserve	152.30	152.30	....	4.59
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	108.30	115.20	− 0.69	2.02
Equity Income #	152.80	162.50	− 0.80	2.65
Extra Income #	294.30	312.50	− 1.10	6.47
Smaller Cos	104.50	111.30†	+ 0.60	2.87
International	125.50	133.50†	− 0.50	1.35
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
American	77.74	80.82†	+ 0.13	...
Emerging Mkts	65.46	69.19	− 0.48	0.28
European	165.51	172.14	− 0.80	...
Extra Income #	56.56	59.58	− 0.12	5.07
Far East Emg Eco	90.78	95.19	− 0.97	1.24
Fixed Interest #	27.70	28.80†	+ 0.03	8.10
Fund Inv Tst #	177.57	186.73†	+ 0.13	0.61
Japan	155.00	161.12	+ 0.04	...
Latin American	68.13	71.50	− 0.45	
Pacific	61.91	65.00†	− 0.53	0.57
Property	82.38	86.80	+ 1.82	1.36
UK Emerging Cos	70.82	76.51	+ 0.35	0.91
UK Growth	67.34	70.14†	+ 0.53	1.33
Aber World Port #	88.52	93.18	− 0.40	2.64
Ethical	85.31	89.72	− 0.23	3.13
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.82	50.82	− 0.02	6.85
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2510.00	2616.00	+ 12.00	...
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Rental Property #	111.10	118.10	...	4.81
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	105.40	112.80	− 0.28	1.76
Income Builder Inc	96.44	102.60	− 0.22	3.18
For Allied Dunbar see Threadneedle				
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	135.90	141.10	...	...
Fxnndn Persl Pens	79.05	82.12	..	...
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	458.20	487.40	....	...
Bond	123.70	130.00†	...	8.43
Brit Smlr Cos	114.90	122.20	...	1.90
Europe	349.60	371.10†	...	...
Euro Smlr Cos	125.80	134.10†	...	0.31
High Income #	67.50	71.81†	...	5.41
Income	400.80	426.40	...	3.98
Japan	367.20	384.40†	...	...
Latin American	105.50	112.20	..	..
Pacific	86.58	92.12	...	0.66
UK Smlr Cos	63.21	67.24	...	1.28
Japanese Sm Cos	506.90	523.10	.	...
Mngd Fd	232.00	246.20†	...	2.43
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	418.50	442.70	+ 8.60	0.89
Capital Gwth	156.80	165.80	+ 2.70	2.53
Wrlde Opps	232.40	245.90	+ 7.40	0.89
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	180.60	180.60†		6.55
Cash Acc	130.40	130.40	...	6.55
Income #	686.50	732.30	− 2.90	4.09
Income Builder #	79.42	84.59	− 0.20	4.67
Intl Income	82.31	87.56	− 0.17	1.53
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	101.20	107.70†	− 0.60	2.22
500	519.80	560.00	+ 0.70	1.88
General	387.70	416.00†	− 2.50	1.57
Property	269.80	289.30	...	5.49
Trustee	273.10	290.80	− 1.70	1.83
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	172.90	184.90	− 1.20	1.51
FTSE 100	125.40	133.10	− 1.20	1.86
Growth Acc	542.40	577.10	− 4.40	1.55
Smaller Cos	61.47	65.57	+ 0.09	2.24
Smaller Cos Acc	74.03	78.97	+ 0.19	2.24
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	224.40	237.10†	+ 1.20	...
American Growth	155.18	164.30	+ 1.20	.
Japan	101.40	107.10	− 0.40	.
Japan Acc	102.60	108.40	− 0.30	..
Japan Spec Sits	47.38	50.19	− 0.34	...
Worldwide	210.90	223.80	− 0.20	0.74
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	48.40	50.05	− 0.04	7.16
Mgd Gwth & Inc #	46.03	48.88	− 0.19	4.50
Managed Growth	45.27	48.34	− 0.23	0.50
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	175.10	184.80	+ 1.40	.
Asean Smlr Cos	174.90	185.80	+ 1.40	...
Eastern	190.50	206.10	− 2.60	0.30
Equity Income #	120.60	128.80†	− 0.50	4.00
European Growth	474.50	503.90	+ 0.30	0.80
Europe	429.60	459.90	+ 0.20	0.80
German Growth	104.80	111.10	+ 0.30	0.50
Global Bond	73.16	75.64	+ 0.12	4.80
Global Growth	166.30	176.70	+ 0.20	0.40
Japan Growth	133.10	141.18	− 1.20	..
Japan Smaller	90.70	96.08	− 0.74	...
Korea Trust	35.08	38.19	+ 0.45	...
Portfolio	189.80	181.10	− 0.30	2.00
-do- Accum	327.50	349.70	− 0.70	2.00
UK Growth	129.10	138.80	− 0.30	3.60
UK Smaller Cos	118.80	128.80†	...	1.90
Select Managers	93.65	100.10	.	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Int Gwth Port Inc	102.30	108.80	..	..
Special Opps Inc	62.43	66.42	.	.–
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 5029				
Balanced Growth	175.92	183.25†	− 0.95	0.95
-do- Accum	208.08	216.75	− 1.13	0.95
Smaller Cos	181.76	189.33†	+ 0.17	0.44
Higher Yield #	67.44	70.25†	− 0.36	3.53
American Gth Inc	137.86	143.62	+ 1.50	...
European Growth	191.21	199.18	+ 0.33	.
-do- Accum	195.30	203.44	+ 0.34	...
Mngd Ptflio Inc	59.33	61.80†	...	1.22
-do- Accum	82.17	84.76	..	1.22
Int Spec Opps	191.60	199.59	+ 0.31	...
Pacific Gth	116.00	120.84	− 0.25	..
UK General #	117.98	122.90	− 0.56	2.80
-do- Accum #	129.93	135.35	− 0.62	2.80
Japan	42.72	44.50	+ 0.05	...
Gilt & Fixed Int #	108.15	112.07	− 0.10	7.30
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.09	66.93	− 0.01	6.25
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	210.20	221.30	+ 0.40	1.55
UK Growth	255.30	268.70	− 1.80	1.65
UK Income	178.90	188.30†	− 0.60	3.72
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	266.10	282.10	− 1.00	1.21
-do- Income Dist	148.90	157.80†	− 0.80	3.21
-do- Accum	502.50	532.60†	− 2.70	3.21
Gilt & Fxd Int	42.95	45.13	− 0.02	5.10
Growth Units	312.50	334.30	− 1.50	1.75
Bond	185.90	195.50	− 0.10	8.00
Intl Growth	231.70	246.60	+ 0.60	0.28
North American	315.50	334.90	+ 3.50	
Far East	209.10	223.60	− 0.80	0.65
UK Smaller Cos	258.80	276.80	− 0.20	1.04
European	110.30	117.40	− 0.50	0.55
Japanese Growth	32.07	33.98	− 0.01	...
High Income	261.30	278.10†	− 1.10	3.84
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0181 831 7433 Enq 0181 831 7433 Dlg 0181 831 7455				
American & Gen	280.00	296.10†	+ 2.40	...
European Inc	116.50	123.70	− 0.10	0.19
Smaller Cos (4-1)	112.90	120.20	+ 3.10	1.81
Growth	662.20	704.50	− 1.60	1.85
Income & Growth #	565.50	601.60	− 2.80	4.21
-do- Accum #	883.30	939.70	− 4.10	4.21
Japan & Gen	51.78	54.95	+ 0.12	..
Hytrock Gwth	1416.00	1475.00†	− 8.00	1.64
-do- Accum	1778.00	1853.00	− 7.00	1.64
Special Sits	183.50	183.40	− 0.30	1.82
High Yield	1800.00	1858.00†	− 7.00	3.81
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	111.84	119.06	− 0.71	2.34
American Portfolio	156.03	164.37	− 1.49	0.73
European Portfolio	158.05	167.82†	− 2.30	0.42
High Income	54.51	57.25†	− 0.04	6.65
Japanese Portfolio	49.30	52.25†	− 0.26	...
Pacific Portfolio	121.67	130.83	− 0.63	0.91
UK Equity	109.60	117.04†	− 0.94	2.84
UK Equity & Bd	84.90	88.87	− 0.18	5.15
UK Smlr Cos	54.53	58.33	− 0.16	1.62
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	905.94	920.64	+ 8.89	3.77
Inv Fd Acc	927.58	941.81	+ 10.50	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Sec Inc	164.65	165.31	− 0.17	8.85
Fxd Int Sec Acc	172.12	172.80	− 0.19	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	900.08	902.52	+ 9.89	3.86
Investment Acc	4372.77	4337.35	+ 47.53	
Fixed Int Inc	132.75	133.29	− 0.25	8.70
Fixed Int Acc	263.72	264.78	− 0.50	...
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	94.10	98.90†	....	5.06
Beck Bio-Tech	42.71	48.15	+ 1.56	..
Aqua Ethical Tst	212.28	222.91		0.41
City Fin Assets	86.31	90.63†	...	2.89
City Fin Intl	87.56	91.95†	..	0.06
Fraser Nxt Cap	360.86	380.89	..	1.82
Buckley Wrld Gth	142.70	151.26		
Shaw Utilities	77.35	78.97†	− 0.37	4.53
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	54.31	57.62	+ 0.69	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 230				
American Gwth	97.63	103.86	+ 0.70	..
Dragon Growth	49.42	52.86	− 0.55	1.41
Equity High Inc	117.20	117.87	− 0.59	3.31
-do- Accum	166.94	176.65	− 0.90	3.31
Extra Income Inc	28.44	29.95†	− 0.03	6.28
Extra Income Acc	33.06	34.80	− 0.03	6.28
European Gwth	78.51	83.08	− 0.97	0.21
Evergreen	36.01	37.44	− 0.06	..
General Equity	128.34	135.45	− 0.58	2.50
Japan Growth	34.55	36.76	+ 0.07	..
Pedigree Gwth	78.22	82.77	− 0.29	1.76
Pref Stx Cos Inc	41.98	44.42†	+ 0.09	1.38
-do- Accum	45.20	47.83	+ 0.10	1.38
Retirement Inc #	33.07	35.18	− 0.13	5.20
Special Sits	53.97	57.39	+ 0.05	2.75
UK & Overseas	66.08	69.93	− 0.22	0.50
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 890 000				
Balanced	79.53	82.84	...	3.61
Capital	97.25	101.30	...	1.96
High Income	55.48	57.79†	...	6.52
Top 50	69.92	72.83	.	2.00
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	220.98	230.21†	− 0.25	4.19
Long Gilt	49.36	51.38†	+ 0.01	5.21
Monthly Inc-Plus	57.13	59.52	− 0.02	7.53
Preference Share	54.57	56.81†	+ 0.05	6.86
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	161.05	167.78†	− 0.13	5.34
Managed Fund	82.66	86.11†	− 0.19	2.63
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	55.24	57.56	+ 0.19	1.48
-do- Accum	66.06	68.82	+ 0.23	1.48
UK & General	118.83	123.79†	− 0.62	2.27
-do- Accum	159.24	165.89†	− 0.88	2.27
UK Growth	234.26	244.05	− 1.08	1.67
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	256.50	267.22	− 1.40	0.50
Far Eastern Gth	101.08	105.30	+ 0.04	0.27
Global Bond	71.82	74.82†	+ 0.10	6.07
Japan Growth	90.87	94.67	+ 0.22	...
North Amer Gth	298.24	310.70	+ 2.25	.
Oriental Growth	80.30	83.54	− 0.01	0.77
Worldwide Growth	78.63	81.91	− 0.06	0.32
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.92	91.92†	+ 0.02	6.33
Homemaker Fund	98.45	104.75	− 0.41	2.06
Quilter Fund	170.63	181.52	− 0.59	1.74
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	40.34	43.98	+ 0.63	2.88
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	192.50	204.80†	− 0.90	2.11
Income	85.24	90.68	− 0.80	3.97
European Growth	89.00	94.68	− 1.36	0.25
Recovery	199.70	212.40	+ 0.40	1.91
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1162.38	1182.10	..	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	80.60	85.51	− 0.62	0.37
Fellowship Tst	118.80	126.30†	+ 0.19	1.16
Income #	325.30	346.00†	− 1.00	4.01
-do- Accum #	898.50	958.90	− 2.80	4.01
Smaller Cos	236.60	251.70	+ 0.10	0.73
-do- Accum	295.70	314.50	+ 0.20	0.73
Gth Portfolio	113.40	120.60	− 0.20	1.31
High Inc Port #	96.64	102.80	− 0.40	4.06
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1894.40	1956.00	+ 35.50	0.56
UK Small Cos	2348.60	2408.00	+ 15.50	2.81
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	250.00	257.80	...	...
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	202.40	215.30	− 1.50	1.50
UK High Inc Inc	220.40	234.40	− 1.50	3.21
-do- Accum	307.20	326.80	− 2.00	3.21
UK Pref & F I Inc	64.54	68.50	..	5.40
Euromkt Opps	123.80	131.70	− 0.70	0.76
UK Smlr Cos	74.13	78.86	+ 0.05	0.85
Extra Income Inc	53.86	57.29	− 0.09	6.50
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 080 526				
Convertibles #	24.70	26.24	− 0.08	5.34
Enterprise	121.00	128.30	+ 0.10	1.95
Equity Income #	166.70	177.10	− 1.20	3.61
European	73.60	77.84	− 0.08	...
Financial	67.69	71.92†	− 0.36	1.30
Growth & Inc #	342.90	364.30	− 2.20	2.40
High Dist #	213.90	227.20†	− 0.50	3.74
International	415.20	441.20	− 3.70	0.25
Inf Cap Inc	116.70	124.00†	− 1.20	2.17
Latin American	35.27	37.47	− 0.46	...
Mgd Gwth Port	95.67	99.97	. .	0.70
Pacific	69.75	74.11†	− 0.66	..
Pref High Inc	25.43	27.02†	− 0.01	6.65
Tokyo	156.98	165.80	.	...
UK Smaller Cos	256.70	272.70	+ 0.40	1.96
Japan Sm Cos	258.40	274.70	− 2.70	...
Nth Amer	521.90	562.40	− 0.90	0.53
UK Inc & Gth	306.10	325.80†	− 2.00	2.28
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BW Director Digs	125.57	133.73	− 0.50	0.86
Growth Acc	305.83	325.13	− 27.65	0.21
Income	611.24	652.54	− 43.40	5.71
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	243.30	258.80	+ 4.10	1.00
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	108.36	114.06	− 1.77	1.48
Ethical Tst	54.82	57.70	− 0.34	0.92
Far Eastern	234.38	246.88	− 3.67	1.80
High Income	168.35	175.10†	− 4.49	4.15
UK Index Trcking	62.93	66.24	− 0.27	2.58
Intl Growth	141.41	148.85	− 1.41	1.36
North American	182.79	192.41	− 2.36	1.44
Pelican	170.65	179.63†	− 0.47	2.76
Smaller Cos	74.86	78.80	+ 0.02	2.15
Special Sits	88.46	93.12	+ 0.25	2.82
Tst of Inv Tsts	231.71	243.90	− 0.72	1.59
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	128.80	136.60†	+ 0.29	..
Fd of Inv Tsts	57.80	61.33	+ 0.07	0.47
High Income #	42.82	45.40†	+ 0.12	11.01
Wan & Gl Opps	51.41	55.28	+ 0.19	...
Zero Preference	48.50	51.46	+ 0.03	...
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01279 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	115.00	122.30†	− 0.40	1.97
United Charities	341.70	363.50†	− 0.40	2.25
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	.	6.80
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	28.05	37.00†	+ 0.02	5.41
Strategic Inc	29.63	30.95†	− 0.05	5.49
Income Funds				
High Income	30.59	32.10†	− 0.08	4.89
Income Plus	164.90	174.80	− 0.60	3.43
European Income	60.08	63.86	− 0.16	1.76
Moneybuilder Gwth	37.70	37.97	− 0.15	2.20
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	32.35	34.51†	− 0.27	..
American	413.90	440.00†	+ 1.00	..
Amer Spec Sits	237.30	252.90	+ 1.30	.
Japan Smaller Cos	19.75	20.95	− 0.08	.
European	290.20	308.60†	− 1.00	0.34
European Opps	103.60	110.10	− 0.50	0.51
Global Pelr	37.47	39.85	− 0.08	0.41
UK Growth	147.50	156.90	− 0.50	1.24
Growth & Inc	213.90	227.60	− 0.90	2.10
Intl PEP	57.58	61.23	− 0.08	1.13
Japan Spec Sits	63.21	67.03	− 0.28	
Japan	157.50	166.80	+ 0.10	.
Managed Intl	420.30	446.40	+ 0.80	0.60
Moneybuilder Plus	76.13	76.67	− 0.01	0.34
Recovery	71.68	76.23	+ 0.05	1.79
South E Asia	149.90	158.80	− 2.20	1.31
Special Sits	886.90	943.10	+ 1.90	1.20
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	121.90	121.90	+ 0.02	6.60
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2780				
Balanced #	162.00	163.70	..	1.69
Fleming Pri Inc #	107.60	108.58	− 0.10	6.09
Cap Ptflio	184.40	188.00	+ 0.30	0.09
General Opps	162.00	163.10†	...	3.06
Growth Inc	44.90	45.41†	− 0.29	1.63
Private Portfolio	542.50	546.70	...	1.15
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 398 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	165.90	175.00	...	...
High Income	21.60	23.18†	+ 0.05	9.74
Japan Smlr Cos	12.53	13.37†	− 0.04	.
US Smaller Cos	534.50	567.70†	+ 1.10	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	102.70	108.90	+ 0.90	...
-do- Accum	102.70	108.90	+ 0.90	
Amer Smlr Cos	781.00	831.30	+ 7.10	...
-do- Accum	797.30	849.30	+ 7.20	...
Capital Tst	419.10	445.90†	− 1.40	1.26
-do- Accum	623.50	663.70†	− 2.30	1.26
Cont Smlr Cos	65.85	70.32	+ 0.54	1.03
-do- Accum	70.67	75.47	+ 0.58	1.03
Convertible	150.20	158.80	...	5.38
-do- Accum	340.20	361.90		5.38
Emerging Markets	67.72	72.35	− 0.81	0.54
-do- Accum	68.26	72.93	− 0.81	0.54
European	182.10	192.70	− 1.10	0.40
-do- Accum	193.50	204.90	− 1.10	0.40
Extra Income	464.50	494.10	− 2.00	3.89
-do- Accum	765.20	814.00	− 3.40	3.89
Financial	226.80	243.20†	+ 0.10	0.94
-do- Accum	245.80	260.60†	+ 0.10	0.94
Gilt Trust	63.10	65.00†	− 0.04	7.04
-do- Accum	103.90	107.10†	− 0.06	7.04
Health Fund Inc	299.40	315.50†	+ 2.30	..
-do- Accum	299.40	315.50†	+ 2.30	...
Income & Growth	269.20	286.40	− 0.91	3.54
-do- Accum	440.40	468.50	− 1.60	3.54
Intl Growth	455.20	484.70†	+ 0.30	...
-do- Accum	605.40	638.30†	+ 0.30	. .
Japan & Gen	130.80	137.90	+ 0.30	.
-do- Accum	131.30	139.40	+ 0.40	...
Monthly Inc #	232.40	247.20	− 0.90	3.90
-do- Accum #	241.00	256.40	− 0.90	3.90
Managed Port Inc	133.30	140.30	− 0.40	1.28
-do- Accum	146.70	154.40	− 0.30	1.28
Quarterly Income #	63.78	68.10	− 0.33	5.17
-do- Accum #	76.88	81.83	− 0.41	5.17
Recovery	318.50	340.60	− 1.00	..
-do- Accum	378.00	402.10	− 1.20	...
UK Growth	75.61	80.44	− 0.25	1.79
-do- Accum	83.55	88.88	− 0.27	1.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 716835 Enq 01722 716834				
FP American	76.78	81.50	+ 0.43	..
FP Am Smlr Cos	231.80	247.20	+ 3.10	..
FP Asian Growth	188.60	201.10	− 2.30	.
FP Australian	429.70	458.30	− 1.50	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FP Equity Dist	537.90	573.70†	− 2.90	1.97
-do- Accum	1227.00	1308.00	− 7.80	1.97
FP Euro Gth	363.50	387.70	+ 1.30	.
-do- Accum	398.30	424.90	+ 1.40	.
FP Intl Bond	56.71	60.01	+ 0.29	3.98
FP Intl Gth Dist	41.88	44.67†	− 0.02	0.04
-do- Accum	61.72	65.83	− 0.03	0.04
FP Pac Basin Acc	177.50	189.30†	− 1.10	0.12
FP Income #	70.04	74.70	− 0.37	4.48
-do- Accum #	254.10	271.00	− 1.20	4.45
FP Jap Smlr Cos	181.30	193.30	+ 0.10	
FP Monthly Dist #	84.56	90.19†	− 0.24	4.83
FP Stlg Deposit	100.50	100.50†		6.18
FP Tokyo	66.79	71.24	+ 0.03	
FP UK Focus	50.38	53.73†	− 0.36	1.49
FP UK Growth	239.30	255.20	− 1.80	1.55
-do- Accum	492.60	525.40	− 3.80	1.55
Stewardship Dist	482.90	515.00†	− 0.10	1.36
-do- Accum	618.20	659.50		1.36
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	78.22	83.43†	+ 0.01	5.11
-do- Accum #	114.00	121.50		5.11
N Am Stwhp Dist	160.80	171.10	+ 1.60	...
-do- Accum	172.40	184.20	+ 1.80	.
FP Exempt Trust				
Intl Ethical In #	123.80	124.40	− 0.30	2.64
Intl Ethical Ac #	125.10	125.70	− 0.40	2.64
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	142.30	151.30†	+ 0.60	0.56
Ocean Cap Gth Acc	143.10	152.20	+ 0.60	0.10
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	129.90	138.00	+ 0.40	2.65
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	140.60	149.50	+ 0.50	2.65
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	135.10	143.70	+ 0.40	3.64
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	148.40	157.80	+ 0.60	3.64
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 1987				
GANDA	354.20	372.80†	− 0.80	1.54
Cash	49.29	50.83†	..	4.56
Income Portfolio	82.08	86.40†	+ 0.13	2.88
GA Equity Gth	272.90	288.37	− 0.70	0.61
GA European Gth	161.60	171.40	+ 1.00	0.24
GA Japan Gth	82.23	87.30	+ 0.47	.
GA Nth Amer Gth	294.50	312.50	+ 1.70	0.08
GA Intl Gth	134.70	143.10	+ 0.80	.
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	264.30	282.40	+ 3.90	0.12
European Gth	845.50	897.70	+ 3.40	0.53
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	58.92	62.38	+ 0.25	3.39
-do- Accum	68.78	72.82	+ 0.29	3.39
High Yield #	52.86	55.86	+ 0.02	7.19
-do- Accum #	62.97	66.54	+ 0.02	7.19
Income Inc	221.50	236.90		3.75
-do- Accum	261.60	279.80	...	3.75
Intl Growth	410.20	435.10	+ 0.70	0.28
Intl Income	112.20	118.60	+ 0.30	1.97
Japan Growth	403.60	427.30	+ 3.40	...
Orient Acc	147.80	157.60	− 2.00	0.19
UK General Inc	223.00	238.20	− 1.00	1.66
UK General Acc	404.50	431.90	− 1.80	1.66
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	67.58	72.28	+ 0.15	1.61
UK Spec Sits	117.50	125.70	− 0.30	1.20
US Growth	231.70	244.90	+ 1.70	. .
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2080 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	72.56	77.41	− 0.17	1.76
Practical Inv Inc #	134.82	144.30	− 0.05	3.33
-do- Accum #	335.82	359.55	− 0.14	3.33
UK Index	213.75	214.82	− 1.03	2.29
UK Smaller Cos	245.82	262.69†	+ 0.81	0.40
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	25.84	26.78†	+ 0.04	7.17
High Income	41.33	44.03†	− 0.09	3.47
UK Growth & Inc	190.97	203.75†	− 0.60	1.88
Global Bond	27.40	28.61	+ 0.04	5.19
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	44.48	47.57	− 0.38	...
Global Managed	155.16	165.10†	+ 0.32	1.10
Gold & Intl Res	90.44	98.73†	+ 0.12	..
Global Utilities	169.05	180.82†	− 0.32	0.46
Overseas Funds				
American	247.99	262.69	+ 2.78	0.38
European	161.90	172.10	− 0.84	0.46
Euro Sel Opps	256.07	273.38	− 0.68	.
Amer Emerging	204.45	217.67	+ 2.17	..
Hong Kong	149.37	158.74	− 5.97	1.18
Japan	163.07	173.45	− 0.22	.
Pacific Growth	163.07	175.12	− 1.75	. .
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	153.64	153.64†	+ 0.01	6.56
Managed Equity	287.65	287.65†	− 0.05	1.59
Long Term Bal	209.26	209.26†	− 0.57	2.56
Med Term Bal	255.38	255.38†	− 0.44	2.71
UK Equity	362.64	362.64	− 1.32	2.01
UK Emerging Cos	190.67	190.67	− 0.23	2.18
American	411.68	411.68	+ 4.28	0.18
Japan	98.78	98.78†	+ 0.05	.
European	422.80	422.80	− 2.26	0.56
Index Linked Gilt	209.56	209.56	+ 0.19	2.51
Fixed Interest	199.88	199.88†	− 0.08	6.64
Amer Emerging	450.46	450.46	+ 3.94	.
Pacific	146.29	146.29	− 4.64	1.46
Emerging Mkts	129.56	129.56	− 0.71	0.63
Index Strat Japan	161.92	161.92	− 0.33	0.33
-do- Pacific Rim	135.54	135.54	− 1.89	7.36
-do- Cont Europe	227.76	227.76	− 1.27	1.24
Index Strat USA	247.79	247.79	+ 1.04	1.16
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	135.99	144.68	− 0.43	..
Med Term Bal	122.35	130.15	− 0.23	..
Long Term Bal	139.31	148.20	+ 1.23	..
UK Equity	169.21	180.01	− 0.65	...
UK Emerging Cos	90.06	95.81	− 0.11	...
American	191.34	203.55	+ 2.13	...
Japan	47.26	50.27	+ 0.02	...
European	176.14	187.38	− 1.00	.
Fixed Interest	103.68	110.29	+ 0.05	...
Index Linked Gilt	93.47	99.43	+ 0.04	...
Deposit	92.99	98.92	+ 0.01	...
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWD Intl	166.47	175.23	+ 0.51	0.49
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stlg & Intl Inc	754.45	802.51	− 8.77	..
-do- Accum	856.38	911.04	− 9.96	...
European Inc	207.48	218.97	− 1.51	0.40
Amalgam Inc	178.78	190.16		
N America Inc	511.42	544.06	− 0.21	..
Far East Inc	281.78	299.77	− 2.05	0.38
-do- Accum	292.46	311.13	− 2.13	0.38
UK Divid Inc	247.29	263.07	− 0.31	0.87
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9898				
European	691.60	739.60	+ 1.90	.
Gilt & Fixed	139.60	148.10	...	5.25
Growth Equity	499.40	533.50	− 3.10	0.86
Income Trust	181.00	193.38	− 1.00	3.40
International	220.90	235.90	+ 0.20	...
Japan Trust	95.22	101.70	+ 0.70	...
Nth American	445.60	476.00†	+ 2.40	...
Pacific	392.10	418.60†	− 4.00	0.74
Guardbill	713.50	762.20	− 4.50	0.96
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
European Bond	99.30	103.03	+ 0.20	4.97
Global High Inc	94.99	97.97†	+ 0.21	5.09
Stlg Bond Pflo	112.38	118.54	− 0.05	7.38
Cast Mgd Pflo	129.58	137.78†	− 0.86	4.69
European Pflo	151.56	161.15	− 0.63	.
World Mkts Pflo	78.82	83.81	− 0.13	0.70
UK Eq Inc Pflo	168.45	178.10†	− 0.68	3.25
-do- Accum	258.89	275.16	− 1.06	3.25
UK Opps	495.80	527.20	− 1.20	2.47
-do- Accum	605.40	643.70	− 2.50	2.47
St Vinc High Inc	149.05	151.28	+ 3.73	6.45
UK Emerg Cos	291.60	310.00†	+ 0.60	2.81
Inst UK Sm Co	400.38	407.30	+ 0.30	3.15
Glob Priv Tst	142.19	151.18†	− 0.37	1.24
-do- Accum	148.66	158.07	− 0.39	1.24
Inc Share Tst	104.94	111.58	+ 0.09	7.50
HK & China Tst	78.21	83.15	− 1.59	..
High Provider	105.80	109.54	− 0.08	4.56
Blue Chip Pflo	287.57	301.69	− 7.66	0.38
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050				
Balanced Inc	83.01	87.77†	...	2.84
Balanced Acc	69.92	74.14	..	2.84
Growth	39.68	42.07†	...	1.56
Growth Acc	41.74	44.26	...	1.56
Income	38.04	40.33†	..	3.72
Income Acc	42.19	44.73	..	3.72
Dealing: 01904 611110				
Accumulation Tst	33.35	38.13	..	2.65
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Port Acc	53.38	56.64	− 0.01	2.68
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 494949 Dealing: 0645 484645				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	398.21	426.67	− 2.54	0.61
Best of British	85.99	91.40†	− 0.40	1.79
UK Smaller Cos	166.29	178.75	+ 0.23	1.09
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	366.65	390.69	− 2.29	2.65
-do- Accum #	1066.30	1135.69	− 6.94	2.65
High Income	397.41	424.82†	− 1.11	3.80
Extra Income #	339.27	360.61	− 0.07	5.80
Pref & Bond	54.48	57.40†	+ 0.02	7.47
International				
Ethical	137.65	147.21	+ 0.36	1.18
International	352.24	379.97†	− 0.92	...
Global Bond	53.04	55.85	+ 0.10	5.56
Intl Port Tst	108.73	116.26	+ 0.45	0.60
Global Tech	282.44	301.86†	+ 0.96	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	150.44	160.87	+ 0.20	0.81
European	780.35	808.32†	− 5.42	0.36
European Income #	106.94	113.35	− 1.15	3.33
Euro Smlr Cos	213.84	228.83†	− 0.39	0.24
European Value	112.94	120.26†	+ 0.42	.
-do- Accum	121.96	129.87	+ 0.45	..
Japan Trust	141.87	150.83	− 1.56	..
Japan Smlr Cos	132.92	139.60†	− 1.94	...
Pacific Smlr Cos	169.89	181.10†	− 0.89	.
North American	411.32	438.04	+ 2.33	..
American Smaller	226.77	241.49†	+ 0.96	...
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	149.65	158.07†	− 0.95	1.42
Capital	226.26	236.92	− 0.81	1.19
Dollar	610.77	647.93†	+ 8.42	.
Enterprise Gth	489.40	512.40	− 0.69	0.81
European	329.04	344.54	− 0.79	.
Far East	213.74	223.81	− 2.63	1.58
Financial	1340.25	1408.40†	− 3.94	1.43
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	28.15	29.28†	− 0.03	6.13
High Yield #	136.44	142.87	− 0.68	4.08
Income & Growth #	196.82	206.19†	− 1.10	3.04
International	379.89	394.96	− 0.84	0.45
Japanese General	154.91	162.21	+ 0.46	. .
Japan Tech	70.78	74.11	+ 0.22	.
Nat Resources	63.98	68.04	− 0.44	1.03
Portfolio	94.67	99.07	− 0.32	1.76
Special Sits	238.81	250.08	− 1.44	0.30
UK Emerging Cos	134.55	140.90†	− 0.06	1.69
US Smaller Cos	192.80	201.80	+ 0.60	...
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 800 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	782.20	834.00	− 3.30	4.02
UK Growth	805.40	859.60†	− 2.80	1.81
High Income #	138.70	148.00†	− 0.40	5.82
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	772.00	815.30	+ 3.70	
European Gwth	189.10	201.10	− 1.10	..
Japan Gwth	225.00	240.29†	+ 0.20	...
Japan Smlr Cos	20.80	22.20	+ 0.04	..
Asian	40.64	43.37	− 0.62	0.30
Sing & Mlay Gwth	49.21	52.52	− 0.30	...
Hong Kong Gwth	154.20	164.50	− 5.00	0.36
Global Bond	20.78	21.87	+ 0.02	4.46
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	302.00	298.00	− 0.80	2.88
Wide Index	138.40	142.00	+ 0.20	2.04
THE FOOTSIE FUND	61.52	62.95	− 0.53	2.17
Index Funds-International				
American Index	374.50	378.40	+ 1.30	0.58
Eurotrack 100	238.40	238.60	− 2.20	1.03
Japan Index	53.78	54.05	− 0.19	0.22
Tiger Index	111.60	114.20	− 0.30	1.95
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Funds				
UK Smaller Cos	53.04	55.88	− 0.08	1.76
General Funds				
Managed Dist	96.22	99.45†	− 0.17	1.18
Managed	99.10	103.50†	− 0.20	1.18
Expat Child Fnd	128.90	134.30	− 0.70	1.74

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Growth	83.18	86.97†	− 0.37	1.16
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	104.00	108.60	− 0.20	5.00
Gilt & Fixed Int #	28.64	29.58†	− 0.01	7.35
UK Inc & Gwth	57.95	60.57	− 0.18	2.57
UK Income #	446.60	465.80†	− 1.30	3.83
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	78.35	81.10	+ 0.62	.
Amer Smlr Cos	202.20	210.70	+ 2.00	
-do- Accum	204.40	212.90	+ 2.00	..
Europe Gth	280.00	291.30	− 1.70	
-do- Accum	290.80	301.70	− 1.89	.
Euro Smaller Cos	50.83	53.02†	+ 0.44	.
French Growth	136.37	118.37	− 0.60	0.39
-do- Accum	115.00	119.40	− 0.60	0.39
H Kong & China	108.30	112.80	− 3.10	0.28
Intl Growth	73.99	77.03†	− 0.13	0.45
-do- Accum	75.44	78.54†	− 0.14	0.45
Japan Gth	21.30	22.20	+ 0.01	...
-do- Accum	21.30	22.20	+ 0.01	.
Japan Smaller Cos	21.63	22.58	− 0.08	...
Glob Emg Mkts	91.04	95.85	− 0.59	.
-do- Accum	91.68	95.75	− 0.59	
SE Asia	227.60	237.70	− 4.10	0.35
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	49.25	50.76	+ 0.05	6.51
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446				
UK Income #	129.70	137.30†	− 1.00	2.97
UK Growth	134.50	142.30†	− 1.10	1.48
Euro Growth	114.30	120.80	+ 0.16	1.86
Slater Gwth	223.10	238.00†	+ 0.20	0.84
New Japan	57.47	60.66	− 0.05	..
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	198.20	210.80		
Income #	267.81	284.86		3.94
UK Growth	98.97	105.29	.	2.18
Intl Growth	92.85	98.77		0.45
Ecology	115.51	122.86†	.	0.70
European	240.65	256.02		0.51
Far Eastern	259.00	275.50		
UK Special Sits	65.57	69.94†	.	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.53	62.42†	..	0.43
High Income #	59.02	62.95†	.	4.80
Financial Opps	49.99	53.32†		
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	107.50	111.40†	− 0.10	7.13
Euro Pev Inc	119.30	126.70	− 1.20	2.83
-do- Accum	119.40	127.00	− 1.10	2.83
Gilt Yield	126.00	132.80†	− 0.50	6.38
Global Income	247.90	263.70†	− 2.30	3.04
High Yield	188.70	200.70	− 1.40	4.73
-do- Accum	651.70	693.25	− 5.00	4.73
Money Market	101.94	101.94	+ 0.01	6.97
Smlr Cos Div	68.89	73.28†	+ 0.09	3.62
Tomorrows Co Eq Acc	1137.00	1153.00	− 9.00	3.34
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	196.60	208.70	+ 0.40	
Asian Growth	201.28	214.60	− 4.10	0.29
-do- Accum	236.90	252.00	− 4.90	0.29
North American	136.60	145.30	− 0.40	.
European Special	157.60	167.60	− 0.90	
European	220.50	234.50	− 2.70	0.55
-do- Accum	293.30	312.00	− 3.50	0.55
Global Eqty Inc	131.80	139.70	− 1.20	1.62
Japan	305.37	325.49	− 4.00	. .
Japanese Special	144.70	153.90	− 2.90	
Smaller Cos	162.50	172.89	+ 0.10	0.90
UK Equity Growth	60.26	64.10	+ 0.32	1.11
UK Index Inc	400.60	402.00†	− 3.10	2.97
Bircham 1st	119.50	128.40†	− 3.70	1.62
-do- Accum	122.80	131.80†	− 3.60	1.62
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Badge Income	366.40	389.79†	− 3.12	4.60
Esk Growth	116.02	123.43†	.	0.53
Inc & Growth	82.97	88.16	− 0.72	3.39
Smaller Cos	105.68	112.42†	− 0.07	1.45
Ever Spec Sit Inc	63.04	67.03†	+ 0.18	1.77
Ever Spec Sit Acc	65.71	70.97†	+ 0.12	1.77
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	548.40	581.90	− 2.00	1.50
UK Inc/Gth #	584.20	619.80	− 2.80	3.10
UK Income #	411.40	436.50†	− 0.90	4.04
UK Sm Cos	338.70	353.70	+ 0.80	1.84
Euro Gwth	184.90	196.20†	− 1.00	0.14
N Amer Gwth	147.80	156.70	+ 1.10	...
Pacific Growth	7.62	8.08	− 0.07	0.50
Emg Mkts Gwth	74.62	79.17	− 0.13	..
Japan Growth	46.07	48.88	+ 0.35	
Dealing: 01277 843526				
Gwth Port Inc	79.71	84.29	+ 0.38	0.63
Gwth Port Acc	81.42	86.10	+ 0.38	0.62
Inc Port Inc	73.43	77.65†	+ 0.28	3.51
Inc Port Acc	84.67	89.54†	+ 0.33	3.38
Wrldie Port	63.07	66.70	+ 0.31	.
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 683612				
Equity Dist @	708.20	708.20	− 3.50	2.00
-do- Accum @	1497.00	1497.60	− 8.00	2.00
Equity Income #	122.40	122.40†	− 0.50	4.50

LE TEMPS
CHANEL

THE PREMIÈRE COLLECTION 20-MICRON 18 CARAT GOLD-PLATED WATCH
CHAIN BRACELET INTERLACED WITH LEATHER SCRATCHPROOF SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL
MADE IN SWITZERLAND

CHANEL FINE JEWELLERY BOUTIQUE 173 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1 TEL 0171 499 0005

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Uk Tactical Allocatn @	80.86	80.86†	− 0.98	5.72
European @	172.40	172.40	− 1.50	0.08
Far Eastern @	168.70	168.70†	− 1.80	
Fixed Interest @	58.38	58.38†	− 0.07	7.31
Gilt @	95.75	95.75†	− 0.06	6.07
Global Growth @	83.22	83.22	− 0.44	0.01
Intl Bond @	48.38	48.38	+ 0.03	5.54
Japanese @	55.70	55.70†	+ 0.02	..
North American @	279.80	279.80	+ 1.00	
Pacific Growth @	84.46	84.46†	− 1.37	0.34
Pacific Index @	34.53	34.53†	− 0.36	2.81
UK Index @	91.97	91.97†	− 0.47	2.60
UK Recovery @	132.60	132.60†	− 0.60	1.42
UK Smaller Cos @	181.50	181.50	+ 0.40	1.06
US Index @	108.40	108.40	+ 0.30	0.75
European Index @	108.90	108.90	− 1.00	1.06
Japan Index @	27.70	27.70	− 0.30	..
Worldwide @	108.60	108.60†	− 1.30	1.09
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	67.34	72.02	− 0.34	2.11
Income	80.09	85.65	− 0.25	3.53
Far East	33.84	36.19	− 0.25	...
North American	167.00	178.10	+ 1.10	
Global	93.32	99.80	− 0.15	0.32
European	119.60	127.50	− 0.20	0.63
Japan	68.51	73.02	+ 0.05	..
Intl Currency Bd	55.62	58.91†	+ 0.06	5.06
SE Asia	66.54	71.16	− 0.93	0.60
UK Cap Growth	120.10	128.40†	− 0.60	1.82
Recovery Trust	99.02	105.90†	.	1.90
Managed	75.98	81.26	+ 0.02	1.61
Cash	51.70	51.70	+ 0.01	6.46
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	489.00	520.30†	− 3.40	1.84
-do- Accum	1189.00	1265.00	− 9.00	1.84
Contl Euro Gth	93.93	98.88†	+ 0.54	0.01
-do- Accum	101.60	107.20	+ 0.60	0.01
Extra Inc #	354.10	376.80	+ 1.90	3.41
Extra Inc Acc #	1003.00	1068.00	+ 5.00	3.41
FTSE 100 Inc	151.80	160.70	− 1.20	2.03
FTSE 100 Acc	160.90	177.20	− 1.40	2.03
German Gth	165.80	174.80	+ 0.10	0.08
-do- Accum	173.90	183.10	+ 0.10	0.08
Growth Port	745.00	792.60	− 12.00	0.23
-do- Accum	784.60	834.70	− 12.70	0.23
High Interest Inc	108.90	112.50†	− 0.10	6.65
High Interest Acc	122.40	126.90	− 0.10	6.65
Hi Reserve Inc #	122.40	130.30	− 0.40	5.26
Hi Reserve Acc #	139.70	148.70	− 0.60	5.26
Income Inc #	681.30	724.80†	+ 3.90	2.98
Income Acc #	2003.00	2131.00	+ 19.00	2.98
Income Port	663.60	706.20†	− 2.40	3.86
-do- Accum	777.90	827.60	− 2.80	3.86
Japan Growth	78.22	83.22	+ 0.23	..
-do- Accum	78.49	83.50	+ 0.22	..
Master Trust	75.53	80.36	− 0.22	1.14
-do- Accum	88.74	94.41	− 0.27	1.14
Millennium Acc	107.36	114.20	..	2.19
N American Gen	309.10	328.90	+ 3.70	0.02
-do- Accum	357.70	380.60	+ 4.30	0.02
NAm Sm Co Rec	238.40	251.50	− 1.80	...
-do- Accum	241.30	256.80	− 1.30	..
Pacific Basin	178.40	189.90	− 1.80	0.91
-do- Accum	188.20	202.40	− 1.90	0.91
Safety First Acc	112.40	118.46	− 2.18	1.51
Do until 2/10/98 †	109.36			
Small Cos Rec	555.80	595.10†	+ 14.50	1.90
-do- Accum	780.60	821.70	+ 20.50	1.90
UK Eq Gth	199.40	212.20	+ 1.00	2.18
UK Eq Inc #	158.60	168.80†	− 0.80	3.67
UK Growth	126.70	134.80	− 0.90	1.60
-do- Accum	161.80	172.00	− 1.20	1.60
Worldwide Gth	389.30	414.20	+ 0.50	0.34
-do- Accum	575.50	612.70	+ 0.70	0.34
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	113.00	120.76	+ 0.08	0.30
General	128.00	137.43†	− 1.02	2.30
Income	87.57	93.42	− 0.43	4.20
International	77.40	83.40	+ 0.18	0.40
Japan	43.77	46.83	+ 0.06	..
Tst of Inv Trusts	83.07	89.13†	+ 0.06	1.18
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 380				
Amer & General	630.90	655.10	− 3.60	0.12
-do- Accum	791.50	835.20	− 4.50	0.12
Amer Recovery	819.70	865.60†	− 5.60	0.13
-do- Accum	948.10	1002.50†	− 6.50	0.13
Amer Smllr Cos	192.80	203.90	− 0.80	..
-do- Accum	197.00	208.40	− 0.80	..
Australasian	191.60	202.50	− 2.90	2.32
-do- Accum	245.10	259.10	− 3.80	2.32
Capital	1055.00	1127.30	− 13.60	2.69
-do- Accum	1304.40	1379.50	− 16.60	2.69
Charifund	925.50	934.80†	− 7.00	5.22
-do- Accum	5110.20	5161.40†	− 38.50	5.22
Commodity	387.90	420.80	− 3.90	0.80
-do- Accum	589.60	623.50	− 5.90	0.80
Compound Gth	1287.60	1361.60†	− 13.10	2.38
-do- Accum	1456.30	1540.80†	− 14.80	2.38
Corporate Bond	28.24	28.36†	− 0.08	8.40
Dividend	52.50	55.50	− 0.30	4.36
-do- Accum	241.90	256.00	− 1.40	4.36
Equity Income	371.70	393.10	− 1.90	3.86
-do- Accum	588.60	598.70	− 1.40	3.86
Euro & General	737.70	780.10	− 10.40	0.82
-do- Accum	952.20	1006.90	− 13.40	0.82
Euro Dividend #	93.50	98.90	− 1.30	3.34
-do- Accum #	122.90	129.70	− 1.60	3.34

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	57.80	61.10	− 0.50	0.50
-do- Accum	58.00	61.30	− 0.50	0.50
Extra Yield	545.70	581.30	− 5.20	4.76
-do- Accum	1902.40	2150.00	− 18.40	4.76
Fund of Inv Tsts	771.60	824.20	− 2.10	1.57
-do- Accum	1525.30	1637.90	− 4.10	1.57
General	84.30	89.10	− 1.60	3.31
-do- Accum	256.10	270.00	− 5.00	3.31
Gilt Income	67.57	67.73	− 0.06	6.00
-do- Accum	215.51	216.87	− 0.20	6.00
Gold	44.52	47.10	− 1.20	0.75
-do- Accum	53.73	56.80	− 1.40	0.75
High Income	39.90	42.10	− 0.30	4.28
-do- Accum	120.40	127.67	− 1.30	4.28
Intl Growth	32.30	34.30	− 1.30	0.76
-do- Accum	158.20	167.40	− 1.60	0.76
International Inc	122.60	129.70†	− 1.40	4.16
-do- Accum	203.60	215.40†	− 2.30	4.16
Japan & Gen	26.60	28.00†	− 0.60	.
-do- Accum	29.60	32.10†	− 0.60	.
Japan Smlr Cos	90.80	95.90†	− 1.50	
-do- Accum	91.40	96.50†	− 1.40	
Managed Gwth	28.80	30.40	− 0.30	1.46
Managed Income	33.90	35.80	− 0.20	4.29
Midland	65.50	69.33†	− 0.50	2.87
-do- Accum	236.10	249.80†	− 1.90	2.87
Pacific Ex	1257.80	1259.30†	− 12.80	3.42
Recovery	55.20	58.20	− 0.30	2.67
-do- Accum	96.80	102.60	− 0.50	2.67
Second General	93.90	99.70	− 0.60	3.75
-do- Accum	229.10	242.70	− 1.60	3.75
Smaller Cos	69.30	73.20	+ 0.10	2.71
-do- Accum	147.10	155.70	+ 0.30	2.71
Sth East Asia	174.50	203.30	− 5.40	1.99
-do- Accum	377.40	392.80	− 7.30	1.99
Treasury	25.04	25.12†		6.71
Trustee	50.60	53.50†	− 0.30	4.09
-do- Accum	329.60	342.10†	− 1.50	4.09
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 201 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	125.43	133.49†		0.53
Intl Bond	62.55	63.73†		3.27
Intl Equity Growth	93.00	98.77†		0.65
N Amer Growth	169.58	179.84	.	0.69
Special Sits Growth	33.59	35.62		2.05
UK Growth	543.75	584.84†		2.45
-do- Accum	775.13	824.68		2.45
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1447.50	1465.90		2.90
Income #	1134.70	1152.50	.	4.40
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	171.00	180.20†	.	3.63
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	100.70	103.82†	− 0.50	6.41
Investment Pflo	251.30	257.60	− 1.40	2.04
-do- Accum	344.30	351.50	− 1.82	2.04
UK Select Pflo	183.00	194.40	− 1.40	1.94
-do- Accum	232.30	239.20	− 1.70	1.94
UK 100 Cos	144.70	144.20	− 1.50	2.62
-do- Accum	150.30	150.80	− 1.50	2.62
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	76.77	81.67		2.94
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	97.12	103.10	− 0.30	4.02
European	122.50	130.10	+ 0.90	0.34
Income #	96.61	102.50†	− 0.60	4.28
Nth American	125.50	134.40	+ 1.00	0.08
Far East	148.40	157.50	− 0.60	
Japan	54.69	58.12	+ 0.12	
Emging Mkts	87.16	93.24	− 0.34	0.49
Intl Growth	144.80	153.50†		
UK Growth	139.80	149.50†	− 0.30	2.60
UK Smlr Co	67.32	71.47†	+ 0.28	1.74
Asia Pacific	29.67	31.73	− 0.37	0.91
Glob Gwth PEP	71.82	76.02†	+ 0.17	0.80
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	108.70	115.70†	+ 1.00	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	561.09	596.90	− 3.57	3.11
Global Inc	86.95	92.29	− 0.31	2.70
Brit Leaders Inc	440.17	468.27	− 2.42	1.70
Intl Leaders	276.57	294.22	+ 0.20	0.95
PAM Mg Bal Gth	74.51	77.57	+ 0.25	0.22
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	350.00	369.70	+ 2.800	
-do- Accum	374.30	394.30	+ 3.100	
American Opps	145.00	153.80†	+ 2.300	
-do- Accum	146.80	155.70†	+ 2.300	.
British Blue Chip	116.90	124.20†	− 0.90	2.42
-do- Accum	155.10	164.80†	− 1.30	2.42
Cash	100.30	100.30†		6.72
-do- Accum *	155.90	155.90†		6.72
Emerging Mkts	137.20	147.50	− 1.10	0.21
-do- Accum	139.20	149.70	− 1.10	0.21

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Growth	391.40	414.40	+ 0.300	0.13
-do- Accum	427.20	452.30	+ 0.400	0.13
European Income	100.30	105.90	+ 0.100	3.83
-do- Accum	150.90	159.70	+ 0.400	3.83
General	687.40	732.30	− 3.90	2.20
-do- Accum	1434.00	1527.00	− 9.00	2.20
Global Bond	126.60	133.08†	+ 0.500	4.89
-do- Accum	176.00	185.00†	+ 0.700	4.89
Gold & General	130.30	140.00	− 1.30	0.51
-do- Accum	134.90	144.90	− 1.30	0.51
Cont Securities	100.40	103.90		5.35
-do- Accum	220.90	227.70	+ 0.100	5.35
High Yield Bd	108.30	110.80	− 0.10	6.15
-do- Accum	121.30	124.30	...	6.15
Income	229.40	244.10†	− 1.70	3.69
-do- Accum	396.50	421.70†	− 3.00	3.69
Inc Portfolio #	125.60	133.20†	− 0.40	4.90
-do- Accum #	143.10	151.70†	− 0.50	4.90
Intl Opps	621.60	663.00	+ 1.100	0.75
-do- Accum	844.60	900.90	+ 1.600	0.75
Japan	145.30	155.00	+ 0.700	.
-do- Accum	149.20	159.10	+ 0.700	
New Europe	278.40	297.00	− 0.10	0.94
-do- Accum	292.30	311.80		0.94
Pacific	77.52	82.66	− 0.40	0.77
-do- Accum	83.63	89.18	− 0.42	0.77
Recovery	536.00	571.70†	+ 2.600	1.58
-do- Accum	717.50	765.30†	+ 3.500	1.58
UK Smaller Cos	67.67	72.16	+ 1.330	1.41
-do- Accum	79.25	84.53	+ 2.270	1.41
Portfolio	105.40	111.90†	− 0.40	2.66
-do- Accum	132.80	141.00†	− 0.45	2.66
Managed Gth	136.80	143.10	− 0.40	1.77
Managed Inc	135.80	141.10	− 0.40	3.82
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Europgrowth Plus	183.02	194.78	+ 0.37	0.12
Portfolio	91.41	97.24	− 0.36	1.29
UK Income Inc	111.75	118.88	− 0.68	3.97
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	75.96	79.54†	− 0.54	2.49
-do- Accum	86.00	90.05†	− 0.61	2.49
British Tst	127.20	133.80	− 1.10	1.95
-do- Accum	156.30	163.70	− 1.20	1.95
Corp Bond Inc	103.80	107.60†	− 0.10	6.19
-do- Accum	113.50	117.60†	− 0.10	6.19
Extra High Inc	82.88	86.79†	− 0.24	5.79
-do- Accum #	188.90	197.60†	− 0.50	5.79
FTSE 100 Acc	88.27	92.43	− 0.61	1.96
FTSE 100 Dist	81.23	85.06	− 0.56	1.96
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.94	61.33	− 0.08	6.02
-do- Accum	197.90	205.90	− 0.20	6.02
High Yield	281.20	294.50†	− 0.70	5.78
-do- Accum #	827.30	866.30†	− 2.20	5.78
Household Names	112.70	113.30	− 0.50	1.59
Income	380.50	409.90	− 2.00	3.90
-do- Accum #	949.90	994.70	− 4.80	3.90
Money Market UT	49.26	49.27†	+ 0.01	6.31
-do- Accum	87.38	87.40†	+ 0.02	6.31
Monthly Income	113.50	118.90†	− 0.40	4.28
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	164.10	174.60	− 0.90	1.89
European Growth	166.80	176.60	− 0.40	
Gilt & Fixed	111.90	119.10	− 0.10	5.92
Income	130.80	138.80	− 0.50	3.72
Japan Growth	35.97	38.13	− 0.30	.
Managed	93.66	99.65	− 0.35	2.40
Money Market	101.20	107.20	− 0.12	5.09
North American	136.00	144.20	− 0.40	
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	148.70	158.20	− 0.80	1.89
European Growth	156.50	165.90	− 0.30	
Gilt & Fixed Int	104.50	110.80	− 0.10	5.94
Income	127.70	135.90	− 0.60	3.73
Japan Growth	36.00	38.16	− 0.30	
Managed	90.26	96.02	− 0.29	2.38
Money Market	93.24	98.86	+ 0.01	5.09
North American	121.90	129.20	− 0.40	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	147.40	156.80	− 0.80	1.89
European Growth	152.98	162.10	− 0.30	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	84.02	89.09	− 0.07	5.85
Income	124.20	132.10	− 0.50	3.72
Japan Growth	36.90	39.11	− 0.31	.
Managed	93.04	98.98	− 0.28	2.38
Money Market	84.14	89.20	+ 0.02	5.12
North American	136.40	144.50	− 0.40	.
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	588.00	622.40	+ 3.80	..
European Gth Inc	624.40	662.70	− 2.00	
-do- Accum	631.20	670.00	− 2.00	
Intl Gwth	258.90	274.10†	+ 0.70	..
UK Equity Inc	258.30	274.40†	− 1.30	3.74
Do. Accum	365.70	388.50†	− 1.80	3.74
UK Growth Inc	151.70	162.30	− 0.48	2.97
-do- Accum	157.98	169.00	− 0.40	2.97
UK Ind Trckr Inc	232.30	247.70	− 1.20	2.83
-do- Accum	293.80	313.30	− 1.40	2.83
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	358.80	379.30	+ 1.20	0.90
Japan Tmplus	49.94	52.57†	− 0.26	..
Asian Trader	150.80	162.80†	− 1.80	0.41
Mngd Ptflo Inc	216.50	229.90	− 0.60	1.58
Mngd Ptflo Acc	233.00	247.90	− 0.70	1.58
Deposit Inc	100.45	100.45†	+ 0.02	6.88
Europe	260.00	276.20	+ 0.70	.
Genesis	228.50	242.80†	− 0.30	2.30
High Income	20.61	21.89†	− 0.07	10.00
Japan Growth	77.90	82.68	+ 0.40	..

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 080 933				
Acumen	118.70	121.30†	− 0.60	1.82
Acumen Inc	105.80	108.20†	− 0.50	1.88
Acumen Reserve	107.20	108.20†	− 0.10	6.42
-do- Inc	76.32	79.11†	− 0.06	6.42
American Growth	83.03	84.97	+ 0.64	
Equity Income #	124.50	127.70	− 1.00	3.76
European	96.12	97.95	+ 0.84	
Smaller Cos	98.93	103.62†	− 0.20	1.32
W'wide Eqty	85.14	86.92	+ 0.23	
Global Bond	41.16	41.52†	+ 0.16	4.66
UK Growth	129.60	133.00	− 1.00	1.11
Pacific Growth	80.34	82.68	− 0.63	2.18
Japan Growth	82.09	82.80	+ 0.15	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	181.51	193.42	− 1.43	1.75
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	156.40	163.60	+ 0.70	0.14
European Dist	179.60	189.00†	− 0.30	0.30
Far East Dist	136.80	142.90	− 0.10	
Global Care Dist	99.28	104.42	+ 0.32	0.53
Oasis Dist	1110.60	1169.10	− 11.00	0.26
-do- Accum	1446.20	1521.30	− 14.30	0.25
UK Dist	510.80	537.70†	− 2.40	1.50
-do- Accum	1063.90	1119.90	− 5.10	1.50
UK Extra Inc Dist	107.40	113.00	− 0.10	3.17
W'wide Dist	121.60	128.00†	− 0.90	
W'wide Inc Dist	96.32	101.39†	− 0.61	1.39
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 01277 690 280 Admin Enq: 01277 690 388				
Europe Inc	92.79	97.93	− 0.46	0.32
Fund of Funds Inc	76.33	80.56	− 0.22	1.24
North America Inc	81.25	85.75	+ 0.87	0.10
UK Equity Gth Inc	84.20	88.87†	− 0.52	1.80
-do- Accum	93.40	98.58	− 0.58	1.80
UK General Inc	78.33	82.67†	− 0.32	1.95
-do- Accum	88.91	93.84	− 0.36	1.95
UK Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	49.32	51.94†	+ 0.03	6.05
UK Income Inc	79.19	83.58†	− 0.25	2.87
UK Smlr Cos Inc	129.00	136.20†	− 0.20	1.08
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	63.40	67.44†	+ 0.08	
-do- Accum	63.90	67.97†	+ 0.08	
Bond	132.11	140.56	+ 0.22	4.95
Cash Income	50.04	50.04†	+ 0.01	6.31
-do- Accum	72.57	72.57†	+ 0.01	6.31
Challenger	88.03	90.69†	− 0.18	1.32
Distributor	122.78	130.61	− 0.59	2.45
European	70.25	74.73	− 0.45	
Foundation	124.57	132.52	− 2.30	1.61
General Inc	256.09	272.43	− 4.09	1.03
General Acc	261.56	278.25	− 4.16	1.03
Growth Inc	161.67	171.98†	− 0.48	1.65
Growth Acc	168.99	179.77†	− 0.50	1.65
Higher Income Inc	40.25	42.81	− 0.10	5.03
-do- Accum	51.02	54.27	− 0.13	5.03
High Yield Bond #	96.09	100.11	+ 0.02	7.59
Income	325.83	346.62†	− 4.91	2.97
Interest	160.48	162.16		1.85
Intl Gwth	42.45	45.15	− 0.33	
Japan	25.24	26.85	+ 0.20	
Oriental Inc	114.75	122.07	− 2.67	0.18
-do- Accum	118.97	126.56	− 2.97	0.18
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	55.32	58.54†	− 0.16	5.62
UK Growth	133.18	140.80	.	2.58
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	153.43	161.51	− 0.40	0.98
UK Equity	201.73	212.35	− 1.22	2.46
UK Equity Income	184.70	194.42	− 0.56	3.20
UK Smaller Cos	163.59	172.19	+ 0.10	1.19
UK Equity Growth	168.53	177.40†	− 0.44	1.55
UK Index Trckg	200.51	211.62	− 1.49	2.38
Intl Index Trckg	187.97	198.39	− 0.09	0.67
International	298.89	314.62†	− 0.53	0.79
European	304.59	320.62	− 1.55	0.03
Pan European	206.28	217.14	− 1.94	0.92
Nth American	299.76	315.54†	+ 0.77	0.29
N Amer Smlr Cos	332.24	349.73	+ 0.80	
Japanese	73.31	77.17	− 0.32	0.18
Pacific	173.74	182.88	− 1.03	1.54
South East Asian	181.78	191.35†	− 2.33	2.09
Sterling Bond	107.10	112.74†	− 0.16	6.26
Intl Bond	123.39	129.88	+ 0.03	4.05
Gilt & Convertible	117.41	123.59	− 0.16	5.58
Property	92.35	97.21	− 0.02	5.35
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	445.50	478.40	+ 2.00	0.36
-do- Accum	473.50	508.50	+ 2.30	0.36
Japan Inc	81.04	85.64†	+ 0.12	
Nth American Inc	193.30	204.40	+ 0.90	0.08
Worldwide Inc	202.40	215.00	+ 0.40	0.02
Hong Kong Inc	153.70	164.60	− 4.30	0.91
Swiss Equities Inc	114.40	122.00	− 0.60	.
W'wide Bond Inc	67.12	70.93	+ 0.11	5.26
Emging Asia Inc	134.50	144.60	− 1.30	0.41
-do- Accum	135.00	145.10	− 1.30	0.41
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.04	50.04†	+ 0.01	6.26
Thailand Inc	44.60	48.45†	− 0.04	2.64
New Zealand Inc	94.55	101.60†	+ 0.50	2.02
Int Mngd PEP Inc	82.61	88.38	+ 0.07	0.56
Latin Am Corp Inc	78.57	84.49	− 0.45	0.70
UK All Sh Mm Inc	84.45	86.75	− 0.38	3.22
Broker Unit Trusts				
Way Global Blue	89.23	94.93†	+ 0.48	
Global Portfolio	77.38	82.77	+ 0.20	
Way Global Red	69.08	73.49	+ 0.44	
March Global Gth	66.32	70.33	− 0.09	0.15
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	127.90	136.70	− 0.50	0.74
Temple Equity Inc	53.71	58.46	− 0.13	1.45
Hartley Growth	147.80	157.20	+ 0.30	0.51
Intl Growth Inc	80.12	85.69†	+ 0.37	.
IPS Portfolio Inc	106.30	112.58	+ 0.20	
Roxburgh Strat Gth	79.46	84.96†	+ 0.10	0.17
UFC Growth	73.02	78.10	+ 0.18	0.69
Chartfield Port of Fds	55.72	59.12	+ 0.84	
For PM Unit Trust see GA Unit Trusts				
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	335.30	356.60	+ 2.00	1.76
-do- Accum	749.00	796.70	+ 4.60	1.76
Growth	214.00	225.20	− 1.50	2.15
Income	323.30	343.90†	− 1.60	3.37
Intl Equity	301.00	320.10	+ 0.40	0.41
-do- Accum	338.00	359.50	+ 0.40	0.41
Equity Income #	87.60	93.18	− 1.69	4.61
Equity Growth	113.10	120.30	− 0.70	1.59
New Europe	127.20	136.20	+ 0.60	
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	777.55	830.56†	− 6.09	0.32
-do- Accum	785.51	839.06	− 6.15	0.32
Income	538.39	575.82†	− 0.36	3.72
W'wide Recovery	509.43	544.85	− 3.76	0.47
Amer Growth Inc	364.24	387.82	− 2.44	0.01
-do- Accum	364.24	387.02	− 2.44	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	305.52	326.76	− 1.74	0.18
Far Estn Gth Inc	258.54	276.52	− 2.05	1.13
-do- Accum	261.78	279.98	− 2.07	1.13
Euro Gwth Inc	230.64	245.92	− 2.63	0.01
-do- Accum	231.44	246.78	− 2.64	0.01
UK Growth Inc	138.11	147.72	− 0.04	2.39
-do- Accum	151.80	162.36	− 0.04	2.39
High Income	140.84	150.59	− 0.09	3.07
Jap Gwth Inc	145.31	155.42	− 2.36	0.01
-do- Accum	145.31	155.42	− 2.36	0.01
PEP Bond	63.68	68.30	+ 0.01	6.96
PEP Growth	166.86	178.29	− 1.42	0.63
Asian Slr Mkts Inc	96.15	102.84	− 1.86	0.69
-do- Accum	96.47	103.18	− 1.88	0.69
Amer Smlr Co Inc	245.46	261.79†	− 0.28	0.01
-do- Accum	245.46	261.79	− 0.28	0.01
Global Bond	53.43	56.37	− 0.49	5.30
UK Smaller Cos Inc	117.52	125.70	+ 0.09	1.92
-do- Accum	127.30	136.15	+ 0.10	1.92
Lat Am Gwth Inc	38.92	41.63	− 1.04	0.01
-do- Accum	39.55	42.30	− 1.06	0.01
World Inc PEP #	49.37	52.25	− 0.24	3.71
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0161 201 3827				
American	165.92	176.51†	+ 1.38	
European	116.00	123.40	+ 0.86	
Global	62.33	66.31	+ 0.78	..
Pacific	44.67	47.35†	− 0.01	.
UK Inc & Gth	93.96	99.96	+ 0.06	1.36
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 588 8880				
Asia	43.49	46.20†	+ 0.08	.
Emerg Mkts	48.87	51.85	+ 0.18	0.31
Euro Fond	49.74	52.77	+ 0.37	
Fund of Funds	216.92	229.34	+ 0.79	0.09
High Income #	59.70	62.84†	+ 0.33	5.57
Performance	53.11	56.35†	+ 0.18	
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 456 882				
Special Sits	230.50	246.50	+ 0.30	0.52
Dividend	120.38	128.78	+ 0.10	3.58
Intl Gth & Inc	267.40	284.80	+ 0.40	1.39
UK & Gen	56.92	60.88	+ 0.12	1.12
Fund of Funds	81.38	87.04†	+ 0.36	.
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	196.63	204.06	− 0.90	2.12
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries. 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 448				
American Income	150.80	160.00	+ 0.20	2.04
Conv & Gilt	132.90	141.40	+ 0.30	3.88
Euro Spc Sit Acc	120.80	128.50	+ 0.10	.
Extra Income	211.50	225.00†	− 1.10	4.06
-do- Accum	287.90	306.20	− 1.40	4.06
Far East	314.20	334.20†	− 2.40	1.26
-do- Accum	321.20	341.70	− 2.70	1.26
Global Income	30.33	32.19	− 0.14	4.79
High Income	158.90	169.00	− 0.80	4.00
-do- Accum	210.90	224.40†	− 1.00	4.00
International	235.50	250.50†	− 0.20	0.25
-do- Accum	245.80	261.50	+ 0.20	0.25
Pref & Fxd Int	50.94	54.19	− 0.03	5.98
Recovery	101.40	107.90	− 0.30	2.27
Special Sits	165.40	175.90		1.52
-do- Accum	185.70	197.50		1.52
Technology	814.80	866.80	+ 7.00	
UK Blue Chip	104.70	111.40	− 0.70	2.75
-do- Accum	125.40	133.40	− 0.80	2.75
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 406000 Client Enq: 0345 635500				
Managed Tst	48.90	50.67	− 0.14	1.72
Cash Haven Inc	180.79	181.29†	− 1.22	6.23
Cash Haven Acc	124.46	125.07	+ 0.02	6.23
Dist Trust Inc	117.03	121.27†	− 0.25	4.91
Dist Trust Acc	138.58	143.71	+ 0.72	4.91
Global Growth	115.01	122.35	− 0.55	0.89
Equity Inc	102.95	109.52	+ 0.03	3.98
Equity	1042.67	1109.22†	− 5.73	1.78
European	329.47	341.42	− 2.21	0.24
High Income	105.49	112.32†	− 0.13	4.67
Intl Gwth	231.17	245.93	− 0.46	1.08
Intl Sm Co	97.74	103.98†	− 0.23	0.84
Japanese	133.60	138.45	− 0.01	. .
Mgd Income Tst #	50.47	52.15†	− 0.08	7.56
Nth Amer	300.29	310.64	+ 0.58	0.86
Pacific Mkts	87.34	90.51	− 0.51	1.43
Premier Inc	49.83	51.86†	− 0.02	6.04
Sm Cos	117.66	125.16†	+ 0.08	1.65
Spec Sits	147.29	156.69	− 0.42	1.89
UK Growth	176.85	188.14	− 0.96	1.65
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	94.43	99.30	+ 0.02	4.53
Investment Trust	125.42	131.98	+ 0.18	0.38
UK Smaller Cos	120.84	127.87	+ 0.16	1.61
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	411.90	436.90†	− 1.80	2.36
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	39.01	40.74	+ 0.01	
Cash	49.83	50.64	...	5.22
Emerging Mkts	48.54	50.69	+ 0.16	.
Europe	73.69	76.96	+ 0.53	.
Global Fixed Int #	49.54	51.73	− 0.03	4.19
Japan	31.79	33.20	− 0.01	
North America	84.72	88.48	+ 0.46	
UK	78.17	81.63	+ 0.33	0.24

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Equity Inc #	72.18	75.38	+ 0.21	3.08
UK Fixed Int #	54.25	56.65	− 0.03	6.73
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	57.97	60.87	− 0.28	
Pep Inc Port #	55.49	60.60	+ 0.11	2.76
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	39.88		− 0.09	
Asia Pacific ‡	38.22		− 0.37	1.23
Europe ‡	46.26		− 0.01	.
Japan ‡	43.41		+ 0.09	
Latin America ‡	42.48		− 0.32	
North America ‡	48.70		+ 0.42	
UK Eq Income #	49.09		− 0.19	3.91
UK Major Cos ‡	47.35		− 0.31	1.02
UK Smaller Cos ‡	53.11		− 0.04	1.05
For Royal Life Fd Mgmt see Royal Sun Alliance				
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1302.00	1392.00	− 7.00	1.52
Equity Income #	134.60	144.10	− 0.40	4.12
European	212.40	227.50	− 0.50	0.15
High Inc Bond	50.93	51.01	− 0.05	6.17
Portfolio	129.10	138.20	− 0.10	1.09
UK Index Trckg	237.80	251.60	− 1.20	3.19
UK Leading Cos	100.40	107.00	− 0.60	1.92
UK Smaller Cos	139.60	150.90	− 0.10	1.16
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	197.00	208.50	− 0.70	7.38
Intl Cautious	67.05	70.65†		4.33
Intl Growth	87.54	93.58	+ 0.29	
Intl Spec	77.11	82.03	+ 0.02	
Managed	206.80	222.30	− 0.30	0.88
Pacific Basin	61.77	65.86	− 0.25	0.35
United States	168.90	179.00	+ 1.80	0.30
Sun Alliance Trusts				
European	179.50	191.90	− 0.10	0.17
Far East	129.80	137.70	− 0.60	
North America	249.30	265.50	+ 2.00	
W'wide Bond	55.30	58.57	+ 0.11	4.30
Broker Trusts				
Pyg Intl Equity	83.14	88.92	+ 0.24	
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	242.33	257.10	+ 2.00	1.03
European Growth	191.27	203.10	+ 3.10	1.06
Far East Growth	107.40	114.32	− 0.10	1.22
Japan Growth	91.50	97.30†	− 0.19	0.59
Special Sits	264.83	281.70†	+ 0.20	1.61
UK Growth	124.30	132.20		2.59
Intl Growth	313.30	333.30†	+ 2.30	1.74
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	127.10	134.50	− 1.40	0.70
Gt Euro Prog Inc	516.30	546.40	− 1.20	0.70
-do- Accum	810.20	857.40	− 1.80	0.70
Growth Inc	173.20	183.30	+ 0.20	0.09
-do- Accum	178.30	188.70	+ 0.20	0.09
International Inc	458.40	485.10	− 0.10	0.39
-do- Accum	635.90	672.90	− 0.10	0.39
Nth Am & Intl Inc	493.40	528.50	+ 3.50	1.52
UK Gen Prog Inc	300.50	318.00		1.58
-do- Accum	348.30	362.60		1.58
UK High Inc Inc	177.10	187.40	− 0.80	4.80
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	51.39	57.22	− 0.35	0.75
European Gwth	117.17	124.65	− 0.25	1.00
Global Bd	59.98	63.39	+ 0.22	5.00
Japan	45.56	48.46	+ 0.15	
UK Gwth	105.51	112.24	− 0.07	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smlr Cos	184.40	196.20	+ 0.30	
Cash	142.40	142.40		6.56
China Dragon	64.03	68.12	− 0.96	0.22
Commodity	128.20	136.40	− 0.40	
Emerging Mkts	38.61	41.07	− 0.27	0.49
European Gwth	293.20	311.90†	+ 1.60	
Euro Smlr Cos	80.32	85.45	+ 0.61	
Extra Income #	65.50	67.88†	− 0.07	5.16
Far Eastern	75.61	80.44	− 0.15	
FE Sm Cos	37.86	39.43	+ 0.07	0.87
Financial Secs	407.30	433.30	+ 1.90	1.33
Gold & Exploration	48.50	51.60	− 0.35	
Growth	529.40	563.10	− 1.30	1.51
High Income #	52.32	52.32†	− 0.04	6.29
Intl Bond	156.30	165.10	+ 0.30	4.85
ITU	260.10	276.70†	+ 0.80	0.77
Japan Growth	124.70	132.30	+ 0.70	
Japan Smaller	107.10	113.40	+ 0.30	
Korea	24.61	26.18†	− 0.43	
Latin America	48.85	51.97	+ 0.05	0.26
Masterfund	72.08	72.44	+ 0.01	0.94
Premier Eq Gth	206.10	219.30	− 0.60	1.17
Premier Eq Inc #	444.40	472.80	− 1.30	3.81
SE Asia	33.25	35.37	− 0.27	0.23
Southern Africa	50.01	53.20	− 0.99	1.07
UK & O'seas	225.20	239.60	− 0.30	0.70
UK Eqty Gth	102.30	108.80	− 0.30	1.16
UK Eqty Inc #	315.70	335.90	− 0.60	3.87
UK Gilt & Inc #	368.20	391.70	− 1.10	2.75
UK Sm Cos	65.76	69.96	+ 0.11	0.90
US Growth	278.50	296.10	+ 3.00	
New Europe ‡	47.39			
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds:				
American	410.16	433.51†	− 7.14	0.67
-do- Accum	456.49	482.47†	− 7.95	0.67
European Gwth	109.16	115.64	− 1.45	0.27
Euro Smlr Cos	121.08	128.77	− 1.05	
-do- Accum	122.83	130.63	− 1.06	
Far Eastern Gth	86.40	92.16	− 1.39	
-do- Accum	88.07	93.94	− 1.42	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	55.59	58.56	− 0.21	7.34
Global Bond #	45.99	46.90	− 0.33	6.61
-do- Accum #	56.83	58.71	− 0.43	6.61
Global Emer Mkts	49.88	53.21†	− 0.83	
-do- Accum	49.94	53.26†	− 0.83	
Income #	501.74	535.18	− 3.47	4.41
-do- Accum #	1767.32	1885.16	− 12.23	4.41
Japan Smlr Cos	241.57	257.67	− 3.56	
-do- Accum	242.05	258.19	− 3.57	
Japan Enterprise	52.59	56.09†	− 0.17	
Pacific Gwth	106.20	113.28	− 1.69	0.69
-do- Accum	110.41	117.76	− 1.76	0.68
Portfolio	104.28	110.94	− 0.66	1.80
-do- Accum	117.85	125.38	− 0.75	1.80
Seoul	21.34	22.76	− 0.31	
-do- Accum	21.34	22.76	− 0.31	
Smaller Cos	373.51	398.41	+ 0.38	0.99
-do- Accum	447.35	477.17	+ 0.45	0.99
Strategic Inc	110.73	117.87	− 0.44	2.44
Strategic Acc	113.55	120.87	− 0.45	2.44
Tokyo	106.94	114.06	− 0.33	
-do- Accum	108.02	115.21	− 0.34	
UK Enterprise	395.75	422.13	− 0.47	2.01
-do- Accum	501.09	534.50	− 0.59	2.01
UK Equity	358.29	382.17	− 1.30	2.20
-do- Accum	740.36	789.72	− 3.82	2.20
US Smlr Cos	327.03	348.06†	− 1.52	
-do- Accum	327.03	348.06†	− 1.52	
Institutional Funds:				
European	356.36	369.06	− 0.55	1.04
-do- Accum	406.11	420.59	− 0.63	1.04
Euro Smlr Cos	39.44	41.07	+ 0.31	0.94
-do- Accum	42.81	44.58	+ 0.34	0.94
Global Equity Inc	100.61	104.58†	+ 0.36	0.83
Japan Smlr Cos	23.68	24.66	− 0.08	0.14
-do- Accum	23.95	24.94	− 0.08	0.14
Mngd Balanced	245.43	255.61	− 0.42	3.39
-do- Accum	296.52	307.78	− 0.52	3.39
Overseas Equity	220.21	229.16	+ 0.33	0.96
-do- Accum	232.91	242.37	+ 0.34	0.96
Oseas Smlr Cos	126.97	132.26	+ 0.62	0.93
-do- Accum	135.38	141.01	+ 0.65	0.93
Pacific	190.03	197.84†	− 3.06	2.29
-do- Accum	214.91	223.86†	− 3.46	2.29
Recovery	2734.40	2848.33	− 8.65	2.86
-do- Accum	3089.61	3218.34	− 9.78	2.86
UK Index	221.09	230.30	− 0.67	2.93
-do- Accum	293.17	305.38	− 0.88	2.93
UK Small Cos	157.58	164.14	− 0.27	2.61
-do- Accum	178.65	186.09	− 0.31	2.61
US Smlr Cos	83.60	86.97†	− 0.83	0.67
-do- Accum	86.20	89.76†	− 0.86	0.67
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 304 2200				
Equity Income	71.54	75.65	+ 0.18	2.25
Equity Trust	93.71	99.10	+ 0.14	2.25
Equity Strategy	99.60	105.33	+ 0.13	1.70
European Opps	126.10	133.35	+ 1.58	0.15
UK Smaller Cos	83.81	88.63	− 0.10	1.47
Mountain Inc	96.46	102.09	+ 0.03	7.73
Japanese	51.46	54.42	− 0.31	
Asia Pacific	66.79	71.78	− 0.87	0.56
American	169.49	179.24	+ 0.21	0.86
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	35.00	35.00		6.71
UK Eq Gwth Inc	72.15	76.85	− 0.37	2.59
-do- Accum	100.34	106.88	− 0.51	2.59
Intl Income	326.80	347.53†	− 0.50	1.34
-do- Accum	585.46	622.60†	− 0.90	1.34
European	127.02	135.08	− 0.38	1.04
Japan	51.02	54.03†	+ 0.16	0.05
American	127.84	135.01	+ 0.56	1.00
Far East Tact	64.39	68.68	− 0.75	1.75
Ethical Inc	44.76	47.87	+ 0.01	1.86
-do- Accum	52.33	55.97	+ 0.01	1.86
UK Blue Chip Inc	48.84	52.09	− 0.27	2.60
-do- Accum	60.32	64.34	− 0.34	2.60
UK Equity Inc	50.48	53.25†	− 0.23	3.79
-do- Accum	76.57	81.67†	− 0.35	3.79
UK Global Inc	56.11	59.76	− 0.02	1.64
-do- Accum	62.30	66.36	− 0.02	1.64
W'wide Tact	94.08	100.08	− 0.15	1.03
Europe Tactical	92.61	98.52	− 0.18	0.55
Technology	182.76	193.94	+ 0.96	0.06
Dist Inc	28.83	30.59	− 0.08	5.42
-do- Accum	30.54	32.40	− 0.09	5.42
UK Ext Inc Inc	25.73	27.23	− 0.02	7.20
-do- Accum	28.03	29.66	− 0.03	7.20
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	600.30	639.10	− 3.10	2.47
American	423.80	448.40	+ 2.90	0.26
Pacific	316.80	338.60	− 0.80	1.15
European	760.80	813.70	− 6.00	0.73
Worldwide	94.90	101.50	− 0.30	0.46
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	395.10	420.30	− 2.30	2.07
-do- Accum	529.60	563.20	− 2.30	2.07
UK Sr Co Eq Inc	288.20	306.50	+ 0.90	1.68
-do- Accum	358.60	381.40	+ 0.90	1.68
Select Opptnty Inc	97.15	103.98	− 0.30	1.81
Income Plus Inc	102.00	108.50	− 0.40	2.69
European Inc	52.00	53.80		0.62
-do- Accum	605.60	642.40		0.62
Far Eastern Inc	132.60	141.10	.	1.31
-do- Accum	155.20	165.20		1.31
Japanese Inc	46.01	48.95		
Nth American Inc	433.20	460.00		0.04
-do- Accum	479.90	509.60		0.04
Intl Growth Inc	233.60	248.60		2.65
W'wide Venture Inc	103.60	110.30		0.39
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	522.80	552.30	+ 0.30	2.14
-do- Accum	816.60	864.80	+ 0.50	2.14
UK High Inc	250.20	264.30	− 0.30	2.04
-do- Accum	399.90	422.50	− 0.40	2.04
Europe Inc	582.10	615.00	− 7.60	0.43
Nth Amer Inc	381.30	402.80	+ 1.20	0.06
Global Inc	277.70	293.40	+ 1.50	0.39
Global Acc	301.50	318.50	+ 1.60	0.39
UK Spec Sits Inc	148.90	157.30		4.80
South East Asia	146.98	155.20	− 1.20	1.02
Cash Trust Inc	102.10	102.10		6.50
UK Smllr Cos Inc	132.60	140.10		1.52
-do- Accum	142.00	150.00	..	1.52
Intl Bond Inc	88.91	93.29		3.83
International Sml	87.72	92.80	+ 0.40	
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	193.30	203.50	+ 0.60	0.22
Nth American	167.70	176.50	+ 1.20	
Intl Bond & Conv	131.50	138.40†	− 0.10	6.06
Pooled Pension	265.20	285.20	− 1.00	2.07
Smaller Cos	132.50	139.50†	+ 0.10	1.06
UK General #	195.60	205.90†	− 0.30	2.06
Far Eastern	67.55	71.11†	− 0.28	0.21
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Continental	109.50	115.50	+ 0.10	0.74
Global Gwth	89.96	94.99	+ 0.05	0.59
Inv Tst Port	61.23	65.59	− 0.04	2.19
Managed	1458.00	1522.75	− 8.40	1.47
Pref Inc #	109.40	116.30†	− 0.30	6.15
Smaller Cos	288.30	306.70	+ 0.70	0.60
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	105.38		− 1.07	4.46
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.49		+ 0.01	5.33
Corporate Inc ‡	101.18		− 0.55	5.15

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Tai Pan ‡	84.03		− 1.97	
Aztec ‡	80.72		− 2.54	
Amer Gth Fund ‡	165.83	.	− 1.02	.
European ‡	190.20	.	− 2.73	
Global Bond ‡	57.35		− 0.07	7.07
Caribbean ‡	44.59		− 0.16	
UK Growth ‡	121.06		− 1.77	2.04
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	58.59		− 0.25	2.80
Investment Trust ‡	118.71		− 0.40	1.71
The Football Fd ‡	85.57		− 0.17	
Reserve Roll Up ‡	100.84		− 0.02	
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	546.25	577.90	+ 7.00	
Capital	103.00	109.20	+ 0.20	1.46
Cash	100.76	100.76	+ 0.02	6.59
European	190.40	201.20	− 2.50	0.22
Far Eastern	140.90	149.10	− 0.35	
Growth	193.00	204.76	− 0.75	1.25
Income #	161.90	171.50	− 0.20	4.77
Magnum	168.30	176.10	+ 0.20	1.52
Smlr Sits	640.00	677.20†	+ 2.50	0.11
Thoroughbred	197.10	208.60†	+ 0.25	1.54
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 73 11 033				
Chrtld Primance	60.85	63.04	− 0.02	7.00
Ethical	91.09	97.42	+ 3.09	0.59
European Growth	95.53	101.30	− 0.40	0.18
Income #	69.86	74.70†	− 0.19	4.32
Intl Growth	120.20	127.40	+ 0.45	
Managed	102.60	109.80	− 0.20	0.62
UK Growth	87.45	93.52	− 0.18	1.45
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	51.04	51.30	+ 0.30	[illegible]
Global Advtg Acc	52.20	56.20	+ 0.30	[illegible]
Income Advtg Inc	42.52	45.75	.	3.78
Income Advtg Acc	51.45	51.75		3.78
UK Equity Gth Acc	119.00	126.00	+ 0.30	1.53
Premier Inc Inc	53.02	54.09		6.67
Premier Inc Acc	66.13	67.34	− 0.12	6.67
Managed Acc	70.67	75.12	− 0.45	1.69
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	49.52	52.07†	+ 0.10	3.64
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	62.55	72.67	− 0.10	3.64
UK Smlr Cos Acc	52.91	56.09	− 0.10	0.55
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	97.22	103.50	− 0.10	1.56
UK Equity Gen Inc	68.37	72.07†	+ 0.10	1.56
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	33.61	35.55†		6.34
Guaranteed Eq Co Acc	379.20	410.40	− 3.70	1.32
Nth American Acc	73.16	77.74	+ 0.90	0.01
Pacific Basin	33.37	35.46	+ 0.10	0.35
European Acc	68.24	72.51	+ 1.40	0.25
Japan Acc	22.43	23.84	+ 0.10	0.75
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global Eq (US$)	5.273	5.602		1.60
US Eqty (US$)	4.523	4.829†		0.62
Far East Eqty (yen)	744.00	813.10		
FT Europe	189.50	201.30†	.	0.05
FT N Amer (US$)	3.850	4.079†		
FT Japan (yen)	141.56	149.40†		
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	2.356	2.497†		0.37
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	628.50	665.86	− 5.60	
British #	1498.80	1525.70	− 4.70	2.18
Emging Mkts	171.30	181.80	− 1.40	0.49
Euro Gwth Inc	112.70	119.30		
Euro Small Co	63.07	67.17		0.19
Japan	95.56	101.40		
Asia Pacific	361.60	385.10	− 3.20	1.33
-do- Accum	392.40	419.00	− 3.50	1.33
Inv Trust Acc	323.20	340.60	+ 0.30	1.03
Mngd Equity	227.00	240.20	− 0.80	1.49
Mngd Cash	95.56	95.86	+ 0.01	6.56
For Sun Alliance UT see Royal & Sun Alliance				
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Asia Pacific	16.62	17.70	− 0.16	2.35
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	102.31	109.51	− 0.05	6.53
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	114.37	121.69	− 0.05	6.53
European	63.51	67.57	− 0.22	0.47
Japan	28.86	30.71	+ 0.14	0.01
Managed Assets	164.02	175.43	+ 0.02	2.28
North American	59.42	63.22	+ 0.52	0.02
Smlr Co's Inc	39.83	42.39†	+ 0.06	1.82
Smlr Co's Acc	44.56	47.41	+ 0.07	1.82
UK Growth Inc	72.40	83.41	− 0.62	1.87
UK Growth Acc	90.63	96.42	− 0.72	1.87
Extra Income #	55.15	58.39	− 0.25	4.27
Worldwide Gth	46.96	50.23†	+ 0.21	0.33
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	61.12	65.02†	+ 0.20	
UK Income Inc	73.91	78.63	− 0.45	2.52
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	38.27	40.56†	− 0.12	6.29
Mngd High Yld Inc	107.33	114.18†	− 0.51	3.62
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	101.10	107.41†	− 0.69	2.59
UK Smaller Cos	44.54	47.38†	− 0.02	1.94
Pacific Gth Port	36.31	39.27	− 0.82	0.71
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 346 794				
American	379.69	401.79	+ 3.66	
-do- Accum	418.21	442.55	+ 4.02	.
Brit Growth	146.64	156.17†	− 0.96	1.26
-do- Accum	185.78	196.60†	− 1.21	1.26
European	151.96	160.81	− 0.49	
-do- Accum	162.31	171.76	− 0.52	
Extra Income #	255.70	270.58	− 1.30	3.90
-do- Accum #	489.27	517.75	− 2.47	3.90
Smaller Cos	97.66	103.35	− 0.07	0.79
-do- Accum	112.83	119.40	− 0.08	0.79
General	425.67	450.44	− 2.57	1.50
-do- Accum	925.72	979.60	− 5.58	1.50
Pference Income	54.37	56.64†	− 0.07	5.82
-do- Accum	144.87	150.91†	− 0.19	5.82
Income #	465.09	492.16	− 2.54	3.06
-do- Accum #	1111.36	1176.05	− 6.07	3.06
Pacific	294.82	311.98	− 2.67	1.82
-do- Accum	309.79	327.82	− 2.80	1.82
International	695.15	735.61†	− 0.56	0.15
-do- Accum	918.59	972.05†	− 0.72	0.15
Nat Resources	133.67	141.45†	− 0.90	0.34
Sictd Opps	152.00	160.84†	− 0.56	0.92
-do- Accum	202.52	214.30†	− 0.74	0.92
Environmental Inv	98.90	104.65	− 0.21	0.73
Selector	86.23	91.25†	− 0.38	1.27
-do- Accum	102.02	107.96†	− 0.45	1.27
High Income #	84.13	89.03	− 0.37	3.78
-do- Accum #	119.18	126.12	− 0.52	3.78
Intl Income	63.14	66.82†	+ 0.02	4.31
-do- Accum	87.54	92.63†	+ 0.02	4.31
Selector Income	76.16	80.59†	− 0.29	3.73
-do- Accum	100.37	106.21†	− 0.37	3.73
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0181 667 1018				
British	490.07	515.67	− 1.79	2.17
European	95.72	100.23†	− 0.20	1.15
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	268.60	284.24	− 0.06	2.72
Glob Growth Acc	314.43	332.73	− 0.07	2.72
Glob Balncd Inc	212.62	224.99†	− 0.30	3.61
Glob Balncd Acc	266.80	282.32†	− 0.38	3.61
Value Tst Inc	167.09	176.82	+ 0.08	2.48
Value Tst Acc	188.58	199.58	+ 0.09	2.48
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	106.90	113.70	− 0.70	0.46
International	79.44	84.51		
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	39.01	40.57	+ 0.07	6.50
European Growth	399.45	418.27	− 2.43	0.90
Europe	734.66	829.09†	− 2.93	2.80
Global Em Mkts	81.83	85.68	− 0.25	0.50
Japan Tst	66.60	69.73	+ 0.05	
Little Dragons	82.30	86.17	− 0.13	.
Nth Amer Gwth	384.12	402.21	+ 2.32	0.40
Oriental Income #	41.91	43.88†	− 0.37	4.30
Preference	144.43	151.23†	+ 0.08	7.90
Tiger	209.79	219.67	− 3.33	
UK Blue Chip	98.58	103.22	− 0.71	1.50
UK Growth	783.60	820.52†	− 3.90	0.80
UK High Yield #	136.84	143.28†	− 0.70	4.80
UK Mid-Cap	375.32	393.00	+ 0.20	1.50
UK Smlr Cos	141.03	147.67	+ 0.33	0.70
UK Smlr Cos Div #	90.98	95.26	+ 0.47	5.80
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv: 0800 0683000 Inter Serv: 0800 0684000				
Conversion Helpline: 0500 386227 (Until end Dec)				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Income	48.73	51.020†		3.65
Caut Mg Gth Acc	48.76	51.050		4.14
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	47.72	49.960		2.63
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	46.99	49.200	.	0.29
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
UK				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	51.95			6.94
UK Equity Inc #	51.25			3.56
UK Growth ‡	50.26			1.34
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	46.80			2.40
UK Monthly Inc #	47.29		− 0.20	3.65
UK Select Gwth ‡	50.73	..	− 0.08	1.51
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	52.81			0.91
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	47.49	.		0.10
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	49.62	.	.	0.06
FE&Jap Gwth Acc ‡	35.28		− 0.43	
Japan Gwth Acc ‡	39.12			
Specialist				
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Source: FT Information

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هكذا من الاصل

One opera house is still a good idea

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Frankly, readers, I am well gobsmacked, as they say on *The Bill*. Just six weeks ago I filled this column with a little *jeu d'esprit* under the roguish headline "One Opera House is Trouble Enough". Within five years, I said, London would only have one opera house, because the available subsidy, audience and sponsorship are insufficient to sustain both Covent Garden and Coliseum.

For this piece of unassailable logic I was naturally ridiculed by all manner of distinguished gentry. Indeed, so universally hostile was the reaction that I considered making a public act of contrition — perhaps a small donation to the Vivien Duffield Relief Fund for Crush Bar Carpets.

But guess what? I can put the padlock back on my wallet. This week our Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, expressed what passes in Blairite circles for an original idea. He announced that London can support only one opera house! Spooky coincidence, or what? This may be the first known instance of life imitating the arts page.

Now it is Mr Smith's turn to be ridiculed. And what high-powered ridicule, too. I particularly enjoyed Sir Jeremy Isaacs's many renditions this week of his famous aria, *There's Nothing Wrong With Covent Garden That More Subsidy Won't Cure*. Of course, even as he performed this ditty his former colleagues were scurrying round with the world's biggest begging bowl, trying to rescue Covent Garden from the disastrous closure plans he masterminded. But that little irony only added piquancy to his performance, I thought.

Indeed, the hostility to Mr Smith's proposal is now so widespread that I feel I must spring to his defence. So let's examine the misinformation that has been bandied around this week.

What of the rumour, for instance, that English National Opera would be squashed — along with its cheap ticket policy and its vernacular style — if it shared Covent Garden with the Royal Opera? That notion has been put about a lot, not least by ENO itself. But it's pessimistic rubbish. Consider this. On Monday morning ENO faced a dismal existence in a crumbling theatre, the Coliseum, which the company has declared to be unworkable as a repertory opera house unless it gets a £60 million redevelopment — and that has been ruled out. By Monday evening ENO had been offered a place in what (for £213 million) jolly well ought to be the best opera house in Europe: the redeveloped Covent Garden. That has to be an improvement.

What's more, ENO will take to Covent Garden a populist ethos far more attuned to new Labour thinking than the Royal Opera's stuffy elitism. If the ENO people keep their nerve, it is they who could rule the roost. Then public subsidy could gradually be transferred from the Royal Opera until it becomes a wholly privatised company, offering limited seasons at mind-boggling prices to the super-rich. That is surely a more likely scenario than the one which says that our "people's government" would allow our "people's opera company" to die.

What of the objection that Covent Garden won't have enough spare nights to satisfy ENO, the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet? No, it won't. But they must also perform elsewhere. The Royal Ballet would be better displayed at the Coliseum, which should become a receiving house for the world's top dance companies. The rebuilt Sadler's Wells should house ENO's smaller repertory.

And all three of these allegedly national companies should also tour outside London. Yes, I know that "experts" say it is prohibitively expensive for opera companies to tour. But what do they imagine that Scottish Opera, Opera North, Welsh National Opera and Glyndebourne do for three-quarters of every year?

As for the charge that it would be impossible to maintain two different sorts of musical life on the same Covent Garden stage, that merely betrays ignorance of what goes on in every concert hall in Britain every week. Take the Albert Hall. It has boxing one night, a fashion show the next, a top-quality orchestral concert on the third. It has been doing that for a century, and hasn't lost its integrity yet. Why should an opera house be different?

What else has been thrown at Chris Smith this week? Inevitably, the old flannel about how much subsidy is handed to opera abroad. I think this spectacularly misses the point. Yes, it's true that London doesn't have four opera houses, like Paris. But Britain can boast a dozen top-class orchestras (name one French orchestra that you really want to hear), theatre that is the envy of the world, a film industry that is now the healthiest in Europe, ethnic cultural activity of beguiling richness, galleries and museums stocked with treasures, pioneering dance companies capable of wowing Broadway, radical young artists who win commissions across the globe . . .

I could go on until I hit the sports pages, but I think you grasp the point. All these things deserve a little share of our taxes as well, if only as seed money. The trouble is that every time somebody says "grand opera is ludicrously expensive, but we must keep up with Munich", what they are really advocating is starving many other art forms in order to pay for the extravagances of one. Besides, when it comes to providing fair subsidies all round in a multicultural society, I don't think we need any lessons from the Germans.

But why should Mr Smith deploy any of these arguments? The opera companies are effectively broke, despite yesterday's vague "rescue package". They are in no position to object to any scheme that keeps them in business. Mr Smith holds all the aces. He should keep his cool, call his opponents' bluff, and play out a hand that might just win back some goodwill for the cause of opera in Britain.

Star-crossed in mafia country

DONALD COOPER

Ray Fearon and Zoe Waites play the ill-fated lovers in the Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Barbican

Romeo and Juliet
Barbican Pit

Why do funerals on the stage always occur in a dismal drizzle? I'll tell you. It's so that directors can bring on a lugubriously atmospheric line of people with raised umbrellas as well as black overcoats, veils and hats. At any rate, that is the only explanation I can offer for baking-hot Verona's alarming transformation into rainy Aberdeen at the opening of the *Romeo and Juliet* that marks the RSC's overdue return from its summer meanderings to its old London habitat.

But let me not quibble. *Michael Attenborough's production* is always decent and, as it happens, especially strong when the Italian barumeter takes a sudden upturn. Robert Jones's adaptable brick-and-crumbling-stone set goes into city-square mode. Sweaty men in caps, grimy vests and hanging braces saunter about, idly looking for trouble. Verona has now been transformed to a run-down town in Don Corleone country, circa 1910.

Talk of princes and dukes seems a bit odd in this dowdy outback. Juliet washes clothes in a tin bath and her mother helps to cook the spaghetti bolognese for a party in which the wine comes directly from unmarked bottles, the lighting is by candles in glass jars, and glamour consists of wearing an embroidered waistcoat over a bare torso. It seems even odder when Capulet and Montague promise to erect all-gold statues of each other's children. Maybe they have the requisite loot stashed in some dodgy Sicilian bank. At all events, this Verona is a place where emotions are raw and likely to run amok. It is a place where, as Friar Laurence observes, violent delights will almost certainly have equally violent ends.

The acting is uneven, but powerful enough where it really matters. Ray Fearon's Romeo is sturdy, virile and ardent. Zoe Waites exudes at least as much passion from her balcony and gives every sign of recognising that Juliet is the tougher of the two lovers. Maybe she fails to rise to some of the subtler, trickier challenges — for instance, the moment where she must realise that her Nurse is reporting Tybalt's and not Romeo's death — but she makes you believe that she could defy her overwhelming parents, swallow a dangerous potion, and wake up in a tomb crammed with decaying remnants of murdered cousin.

It is a pity that Attenborough has cut the lamentations after *Juliet's fake death* and denied us any glimpse of the Mantuan apothecary from whom Romeo buys his fatal Mickey Finn. The explanation is presumably that after London and Stratford the production will launch on the sort of interminable tour of regional theatres that makes a full cast financially as well as humanly improbable. This is *a no-frills staging, but none* the worse for that, especially when the supporting performers include Richard Cordery, who makes Laurence a robust priest rather than the usual dreamy allotment-holder, and Sandra Voe, whose Nurse is genial, blearily flirtatious, maddeningly slow at getting to the nub of matters, and everything Shakespeare's Nurse should be.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Seven ways to leave your lover

The French Theatre Season continues with a very French text directed by the remarkable Robert Wilson, on his first visit to the West End for 20 years. The author is the late Marguerite Duras and the seven scenes of the piece are broken by the sounds of a thunderous sea, that destructive presence familiar from so many of her works.

Wilson's productions are invariably *beautiful. Those I* have managed to catch at festivals here and there delight the eye from moment to moment and in every moment. Whatever position his performers are placed in, the angle of their arms and legs, the twist or not of the torso, the tilt or turn of the head, the relationship between this body and that body, or to that open book spotlit in the foreground, this gilt hand-mirror, that narrow beam of black fabric slowly descending — all these items, and the planes of colour behind them too, the snatches of music accompanying the words, the crash of the waves, make up a steadily unfolding pattern of audiovisual delight. It is like a long shared dream.

That said, there are also passages in his productions when manner seems to be the principal or sole matter. This is not exactly the case here, because the words of Duras anchor the two performers to some recognisable reality, even though the subjects they exclusively ruminate upon are the French perennials of *la mort* and *l'amour*, and to what extent one is the other.

The man is played by Michel Piccoli, the oval-faced, honest-faced actor who recited Virgil to the swarm of bees at the start of the film *Milou en Mai*. His partner is the wraithlike dancer Lucinda Childs, playing the woman he has engaged to live with him *for seven days in the hope of* discovering, even at the eleventh hour of his life, what it means to love a woman and whether he can do so.

On a stage three times as wide as it is high, first Piccoli and then Childs speak of his intention, his offer, his lovemaking, his inability to encounter himself by way of another, his growing malady. At first they use the third person singular, and then introduce a scattering of the second person. There are occasional mild jokes, and haunting music from Hans Peter Kuhn. Piccoli's voice often rises in surprise at the end of a line, as if discovering feeling while phrasing, and Childs's agile grace is used to striking effect in the sixth scene. After this Piccoli holds himself in an impossibly awkward half-fall for an impressive length of time.

La Maladie de la Mort
Peacock

Last love: Michel Piccoli and Lucinda Childs

The occasion is itself impressively strange, with none of the incommunicably private imagery that can make a Wilson work a problem piece. Generously sponsored by Global Asset Management, performances continue until tomorrow.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Garage ghost and an ethnic twist

Crazy Horse
BAC, SW11

WHEN ghosts make an entrance it is normally down a drafty Gothic stairwell, or through the floorboards of a ghastly country pile. Parv Bancil has the cheek and wit to pick a bent backstreet garage in London where the stage traffic is *people such as* Ronnie, with hot, dodgy *motors* to hide, and Nobby, who smokes an enormous amount of cannabis, wears dreadlocks and thinks he's black. He even adopts a Rastafarian lilt.

The irony is that it is Ronnie who is black and whose sole interest is not his roots but his stolen Porsche. However, this is Jas's garage and the disgruntled young Asian mechanic won't move until there is money up front. It's his 23rd birthday, and no one, including his womanising, alcoholic, tyrannical father, remembers.

Neil Warmington's set is an atmospheric slope of number plates, an engine pit with a *grill over it and some loose* chains hung from the lighting rig. The first inkling that not everything is as it seems comes when we see Jas sniffing his mother's old dress and fondling her prayer book. The sense of Ameet Channa's Jas being haunted by his dead mother plays itself out in intense arguments over banalities such as laundry tickets with Madhav Sharma's ostentatiously disinterested Jutla. Channa makes a compelling mess of Jas: too bright to be competing against a barmaid for his father's attention, but stewing in his garage like his dead mother's conscience.

It's not the soapy chemistry that makes Bancil's play so watchable but the brilliantly-observed ethnic spin he puts on this scenario.

Vicky Featherstone's light-fingered production for Tara Arts and Paines Plough steers a sure comic course until Jas runs over the barmaid. Bancil *and Featherstone* haven't quite nailed the lid down but they come enjoyably close with their eccentric, highly theatrical tale.

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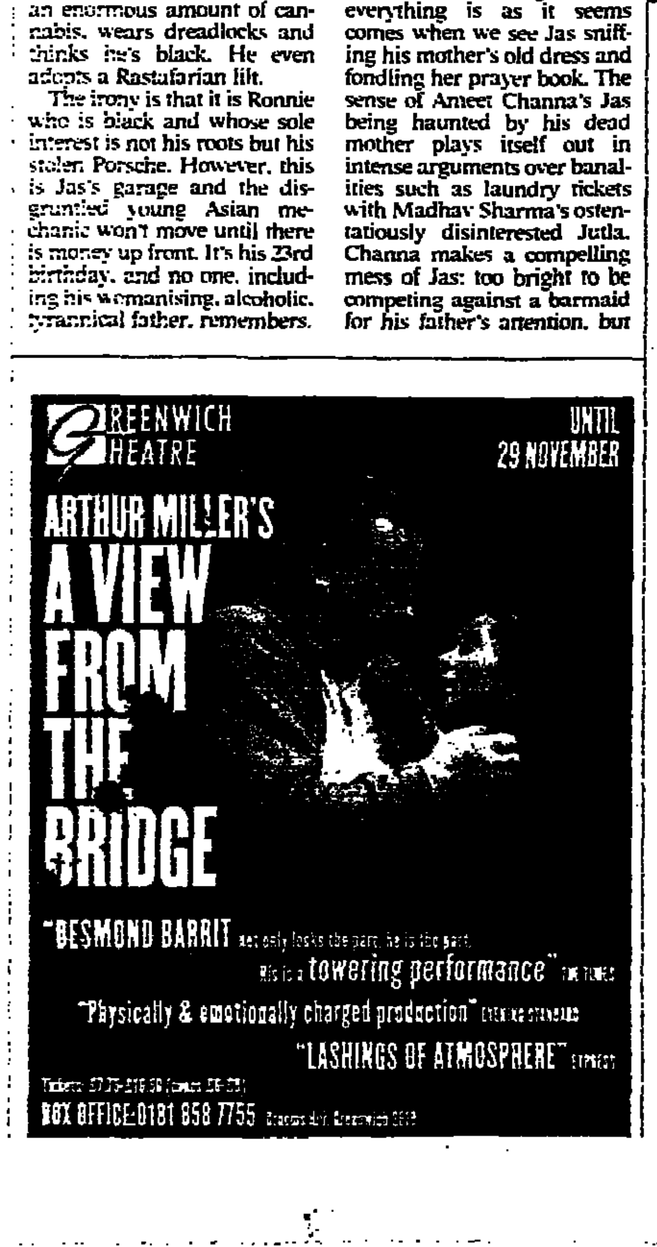
Daily Telegraph



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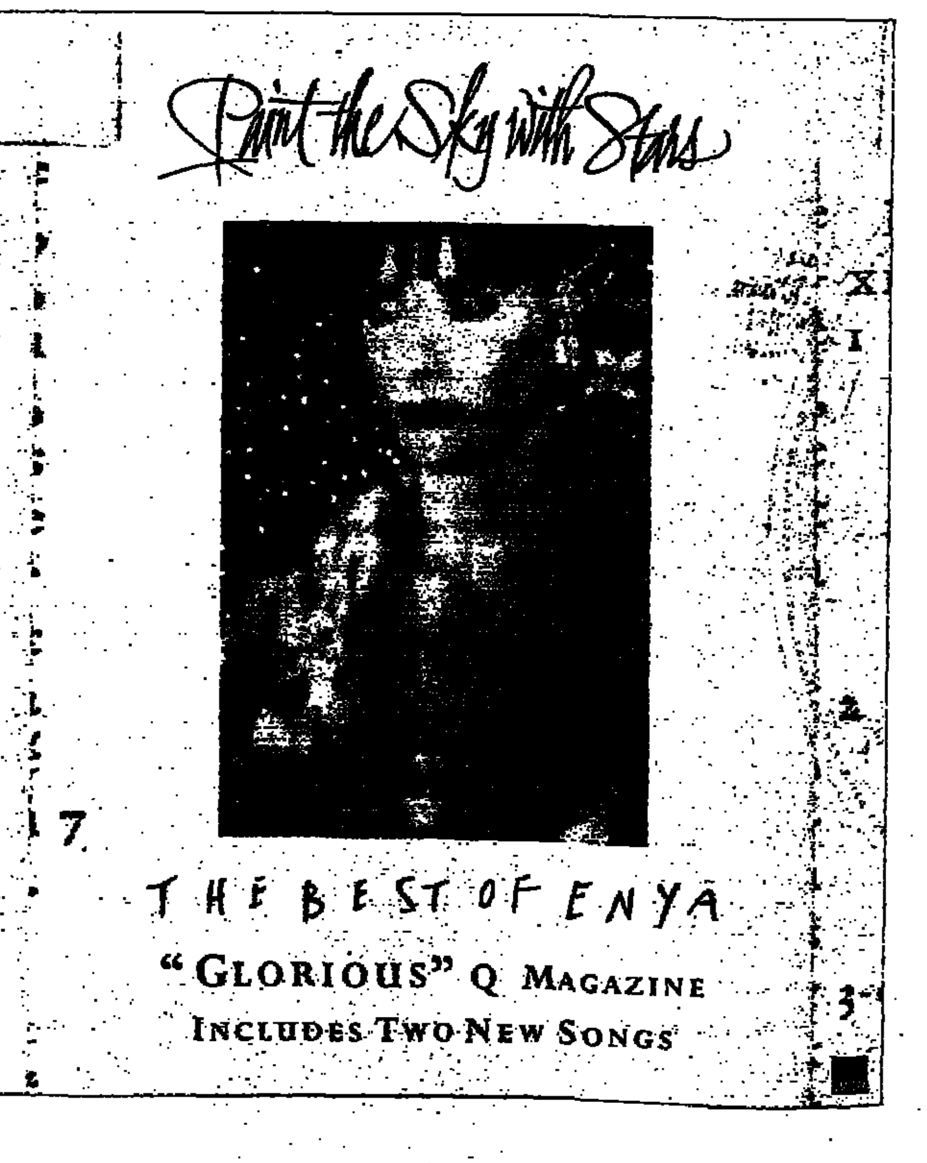

Paint the Sky with Stars
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Praise for the unsung

ONE of the charms of radio is that its relevance is in inverse proportion to the luridness of its publicity. Headlines the size of a house accompanied by garish photographs snatched outside nightclubs usually indicate that someone has walked out of, or into, Radio 1, almost certainly with no discernible effect upon the general health of the medium.

The really interesting bits of radio are going on without much attention from news editors. Indeed, even in these days of media sophistication and spin doctoring, there are still people quietly working away within Broadcasting House for whom the notion of attracting the attention of a journalist has all the desirability of a blue light seen in a rear-view mirror.

RADIO

Take for example the team behind **Sounding the Century**, one of the most ambitious programme projects in the entire history of the BBC. It is what it appears to be: a series of music programmes, including concerts, which attempts to offer a record of music written and recorded in the 20th century. The project is a long one: it continues until the new millennium.

Radio 3 is, of course, the project's home and this week has been especially fruitful for anyone wanting to grasp the flavour of *Sounding the Century*. Monday, in particular, had three excellent programmes — two of them, joy of joys, pegged to an anniversary.

This year being the 75th birthday of the BBC, the corporation seems especially fond of anniversaries: perhaps it is celebrating other people's so as to feel better about its own. Whatever, on Monday Radio 3 began a four-day evaluation of the music of Vaughan Williams — this is the 125th anniversary of his birth — and the same night there was a new production of his morality opera, *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

I have enjoyed David Huckvale's programmes featuring various aspects of the composer's music, from his influence on folk music to examples of his film scores. Each programme was ample evidence that the image of Vaughan Williams as the archetypal evoker of English pastoral images sells him very short.

The other, very different, contribution to *Sounding the Century* which caught the ear on Monday (and is running all week) is a series under the *Postscript* banner called **Ulysses: Epiphanies**, which marks another 75th anniversary, that of the publication of Joyce's book.

Each night a different speaker addressed a single segment of the book, beginning with the poet Paul Muldoon on Telemachus and the novelist John Banville on Nestor. You did not have to enjoy textual analysis to enjoy this, for as much as anything the speakers in this series are recording the impact Joyce's work made on them. And, of course, proving that they have read the darned book.

PETER BARNARD

Eternal chains of violence

Peter Stothard finds powerful modern resonances in a fine production of Sophocles's *Electra*

Sarajevo was as much a part of the ancient Greek world as the soil of Athens. When David Leveaux chooses the Bosnian war as the backcloth for his production of Sophocles's *Electra* (now transferred from Chichester to the Donmar Warehouse in Covent Garden), he links a modern setting to a classical play in a way which goes far beyond the universality of human horror.

The original audience for this most harrowing and paradoxical of classical tragedies would have included many ancestors of the northern tribes who in previous centuries had fought their way to Greece from what we now know as Bosnia and Serbia. Sophocles's contemporaries saw their northern neighbours as more brutal than themselves, more warlike, less civilised but fundamentally, for better or worse, a part of their world — just as many Europeans see the Balkan peoples today.

> ‘Bosnia is a perfect place to set an *Electra* for today’

Leveaux describes in his programme note how he was inspired for this production by a documentary film about a sister putting gifts of toys and chocolate on the grave of her brother during the battle for Sarajevo in the 1990s. Grave offerings play a powerful part in *Electra*; so does sacrifice, revenge and the slaughter of family by family in seemingly unending chains of violence. Bosnia is not the only place in the world where eyes are paid for eyes and teeth for teeth through the generations. But it is a perfect place to set an *Electra* for today — on Johan Engels's design of bare earth, among broken once-fashionable furniture, outside a grey wall separating the oppressed from their temporary conquerors.

Zoe Wanamaker's Electra, with refugee's coat and concentration-camp hair, is the living victim of the day that her mother, Clytemnestra, murdered her father, Agamemnon, on his return from the Trojan War. She is waiting restlessly in the hope that her brother Orestes will return to kill their mother and return their family to its rightful place of property and power. After first learning that her brother is dead, she edges close to insanity.

After Orestes returns, as an icy modern terrorist in Andrew Howard's portrayal, the siblings are reunited, Clytemnestra is killed and Electra returns to an edgy calm. In a grim dramatic coup, the audience is left to await the next round of blood-dripping slaughter.

This story was an old one even for Sophocles's audience at the end of the 5th century. It formed the second part of Aeschylus's *Oresteia* trilogy and was also used by Euripides, the third and youngest of the great Athenian dramatists. Each writer, however, took a slightly different moral view; and each of their separate senses of revenge has a modern echo.

Aeschylus saw the killing as part of a progress of civilisation from fate to civil justice. Apollo demands that Orestes commit the horrendous crime of matricide. So it must be done. But Athene, representing the southern civilised values of Athens against earlier crudities, resolves the disputes in an acceptable peace.

Euripides denounced the killing of Clytemnestra. His play stresses the earlier killing by Agamemnon of his daughter Iphigenia and the justification which this gives to the mother to repay the debt of blood. He attacks Apollo's command to Orestes and takes a view of maternal rights that has had a long appeal to audiences in the post-classical period.

Sophocles, the most consummate dramatic artist of the three, took a more subtle and balanced view — which Leveaux and translator, Frank McGuinness, faithfully follow. Wanamaker's Electra is a sophisticated hater who knows that her adherence to traditional values of revenge has destroyed her best nature as a moral, civilised and modern human being. There is hope for the future in her self-knowledge: as the chorus says, "time is a gentle god: he heals". But that hope may be a long time in fulfilment. (Readers of *The Sunday Times* Culture section may have been confused by a review of this production in Chichester which claimed that "there are no such words in the play and the Greeks had no god of time": the words are there in line 179 in the Oxford Classical Text, translated rather less elegantly in the Loeb edition by Professor Hugh Lloyd-Jones as "time is a god that brings relief").

> ‘We are left to await the next round of bloody slaughter’

Sophocles's Clytemnestra, played by Marjorie Yates in caked make-up, black evening gown and blood-red shawl, is almost as magnificent a character as Electra herself: she is a mother who loves her son as well as fearing him. When the family hear from a messenger the false tale of Orestes's death in a chariot race, the audience's first eyes are for the desperate impact upon Electra; but afterwards, and quickly, the attention is on the torn emotions of the Queen.

Electra, like other ancient heroines Antigone and Dido, has a milder female friend to be a foil to her fury. But Orla Charlton's Chrysothemis is a bold, strong figure of rationality who knows the power of her argument that the will of Clytemnestra and her powerful new husband Aegisthus should be respected. In the language of Sarajevo, she is half collaborator and half free spirit, the fate of so many in such times and places.

The direction of the chorus is a permanent trial for modern productions of Greek tragedy. This is a studio performance which does not attempt the philosophic grandeur of Peter Hall's Oedipus plays, seen last year in Epidaurus and at the National Theatre. Levaux's chorus is a clear-voiced woman of good sense, played by Jenny Galloway in the manner of a United Nations aid worker, sympathetic to the heroine in greatest need but wise too to the eternal truths of time and revenge.

● Electra *continues at the Donmar Warehouse (0171-369 1732) until December 6*

MARILYN KINGWILL

Zoe Wanamaker playing Electra: "Her adherence to traditional values of revenge has destroyed her best nature"

A star shining brightly

THE **Chilingirian Quartet** is celebrating its 25th anniversary. For its Barbican celebrity recital on Wednesday night, it was appropriate that the centrepiece should have been a new work, since the quartet has done much to promote contemporary composers.

The commission, by the Barbican Centre, was for a work from Robert Saxton who produced *Songs, Dances and Ellipses* — a five-movement piece lasting about 23 minutes — and handed it over several months before the premiere. This paid dividends in a scrupulously prepared performance by the Chilingirians.

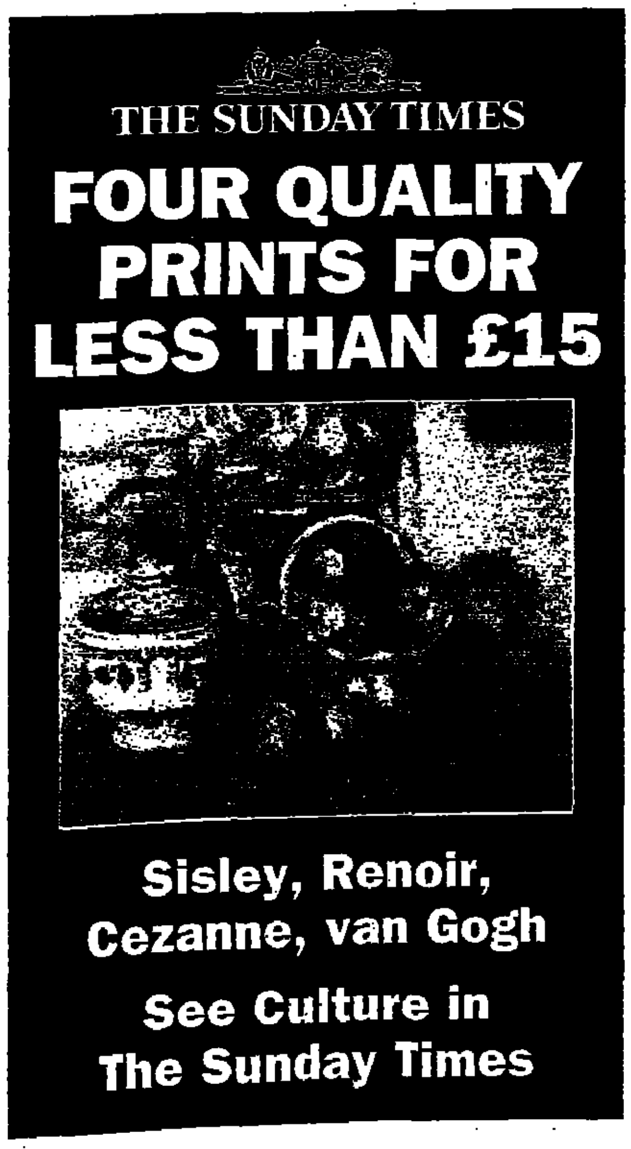
CONCERT

The title alludes to what the composer regards as the fundamental elements of human musical expression and their relationship to the music of the spheres. Thus the ellipses traced by the orbits of the planets become part of the very structure of the quartet, prescribing the trajectories of each movement in turn. It is an ingenious scheme, but what makes the work so successful in performance is the dialectic of expressive and structural elements.

The first movement begins with a strict double canon, yet the lyrical nature of the polyphony was always to the fore in this sympathetic account. The second movement, by contrast, dances in frisky rhythms, but in the latter stages a long-breathed tune on the viola weaves its eloquent way through the texture. Contrapuntal activity and elliptical orbits all come to rest in an extended but evanescent D major coda.

The concert began with an elegant reading of Haydn's Quartet in G, Op 76, and ended with a dynamic one of Mendelssohn's Octet, for which the Chilingirians were joined by the Endellion String Quartet. The Mendelssohn was realised in lucid, balanced textures and there was a moment of spellbinding stasis before the recapitulation of the main material in the first movement. There was mystery too among the elfin scurry of the Scherzo and a euphoric conclusion to the finale.

BARRY MILLINGTON



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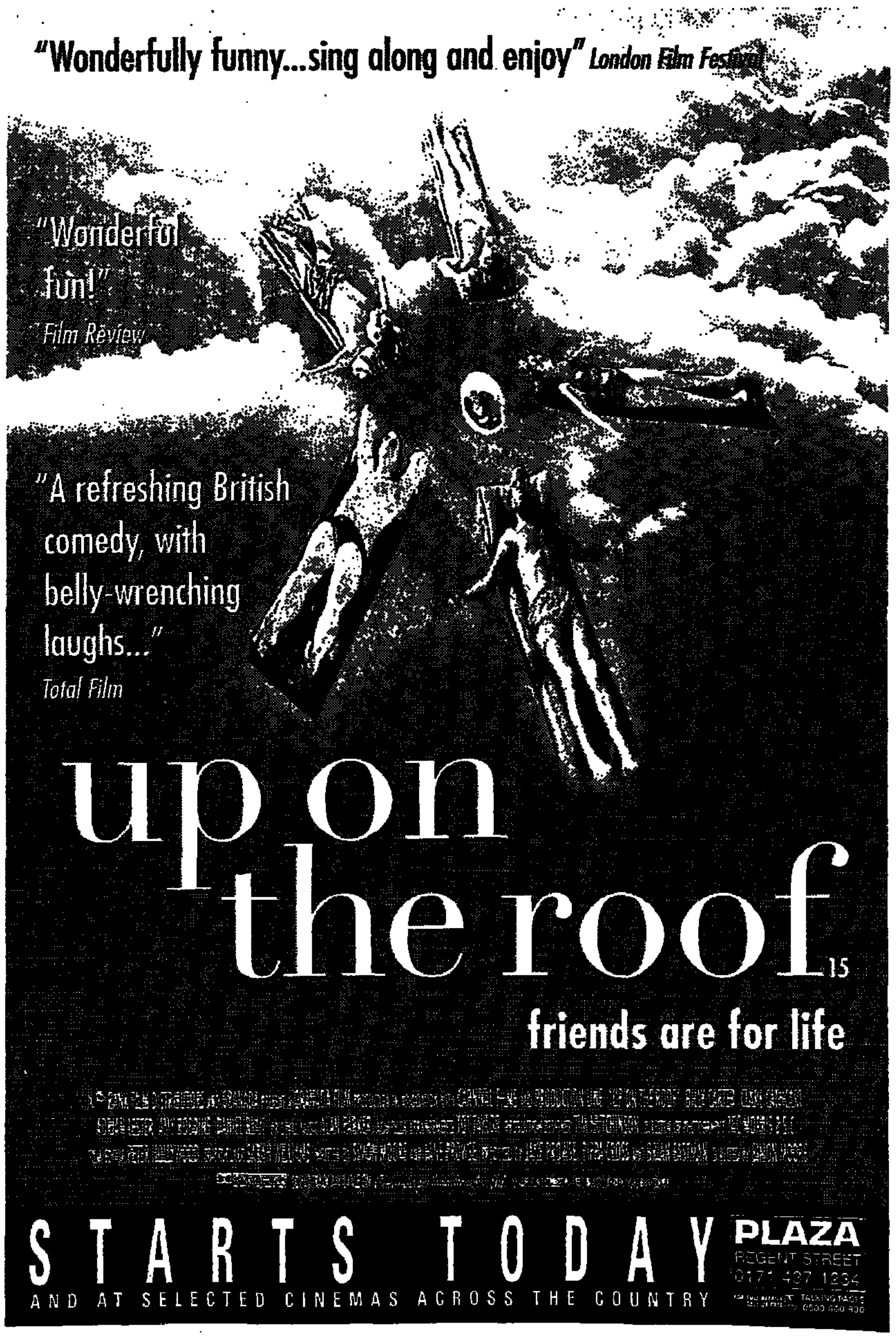

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Maximum break

Finley Quaye is the voice of modern, multicultural Britain – and he's only just begun, writes **Nigel Williamson**

Arranging to meet Finley Quaye in a snooker club was probably a mistake. It is 4.30 in the afternoon, the singer has just got out of bed, and his first stop is the club, in search of a game, a bottle of beer and a smoke. While he pots reds and colours on the table with bewildering skill, I am forced to shoot my questions over the green baize.

Quaye is a serious player. "I give my driver a 100-point start. That means I have to get a colour with every red or at least a very good safety shot. And I still beat him," he says with a cherubic smile.

The statement is not a boast but a matter-of-fact assessment of his own considerable prowess. The other thing Quaye does with some skill is write and perform songs full of sunshine vibes and a soulful spontaneity, rootsy but radio-friendly at the same time.

It is a formula which has shot him to astonishing success over the past six months. During the summer two singles, the joyously uplifting *Sunday Shining*, based on an old Bob Marley song, and the cool and sassy *Even After All* vaulted effortlessly into the Top Ten. In late September his first album, *Maverick a Strike*, made its chart debut at No 3 and has already gone platinum with sales of 300,000. A third single from the album, the Sly Stone-influenced *It's Great When We're Together*, is released soon, and looks set to continue the pattern.

Most reviewers have glibly categorised Quaye as the new champion of roots reggae, even "the new Bob Marley". But while Jamaica certainly exerts a strong pull, Quaye's musical palette is far broader. Reviewing one of his earliest gigs I described him as "the sound of modern multicultural Britain", and the label delights him.

> ❛ I'll never escape my ancestors, whether from the Highlands or Africa ❜

"You got that exactly right because I'm half-Scottish and half-Ghanaian. There's Celtic patterns in there, African patterns and all sorts of stuff. I employ the attitude of reggae, which to me means regulation, don't veer from the track. But I'm not reggae as in some calypso artist for listening to on holiday on the beach. I like to do something where people can hear the origins and I'll never escape my ancestors, whether they're from the Highlands or Africa."

Quaye is unperturbed by the recent attack by Lord Tebbit on the multiculturalism he represents. "Britain has changed. You don't even have to prove it to these people because we know it and they've been left behind."

The positive and uncomplicated nature of Quaye's music is in stark contrast to a difficult and unsettled childhood. He was brought up by his mother, a heroin addict, but she died when he was ten. "There were a lot of wild things in my upbringing that I keep quiet about, like how my mother was. I remember being sent up to her friend's house to collect a book and take an envelope up there. Then I sussed that it was me — a seven-year-old — going to score her heroin.

"A lot of the time I suppress this stuff, but sometimes I have to reason with these things. I prefer to concentrate on the future, but what I do is really in homage to that past, giving thanks that I am alive."

Quaye spent the rest of his youth shuttling back and forth between relatives in Edinburgh and Manchester, picking up his pool hall skills along the way. "I used to go and brush the tables for two and a half hours before I went to school and I got free snooker in return."

His father, Cab Quaye, is a jazz musician, but he has not seen him since he was a baby. "He lives in Holland," he says. "I'm going over there next week. I've got a day off and I'm going to find my dad."

There are other musicians in the vast and sprawling family, too. Brother Caleb Quaye played with Elton John in the 1970s and Tricky is his nephew — something he only discovered after the Bristol-based trip-hop star released his *Maxinquaye* album. "I couldn't work out what the title meant. Then I found out that I had a half-sister who had moved to Bristol and was called Maxine Quaye. When I realised she was Tricky's mum it floored me."

His Ghanaian uncle Eric Agorr played drums with the African-fusion band Osibisa in the 1970s and was in Britain last month lobbying the Commonwealth Conference over Nigeria. "I met him and I want to find out more about my African roots."

Sometimes Quaye lapses into an elliptical, neo-hippy speak littered with words such as "righteousness", but he seems to have his feet firmly on the ground. Unusually for someone so commercially successful, he does not have a manager. He describes the last one as "a Sherman tank" and for the present is content to plan his own career.

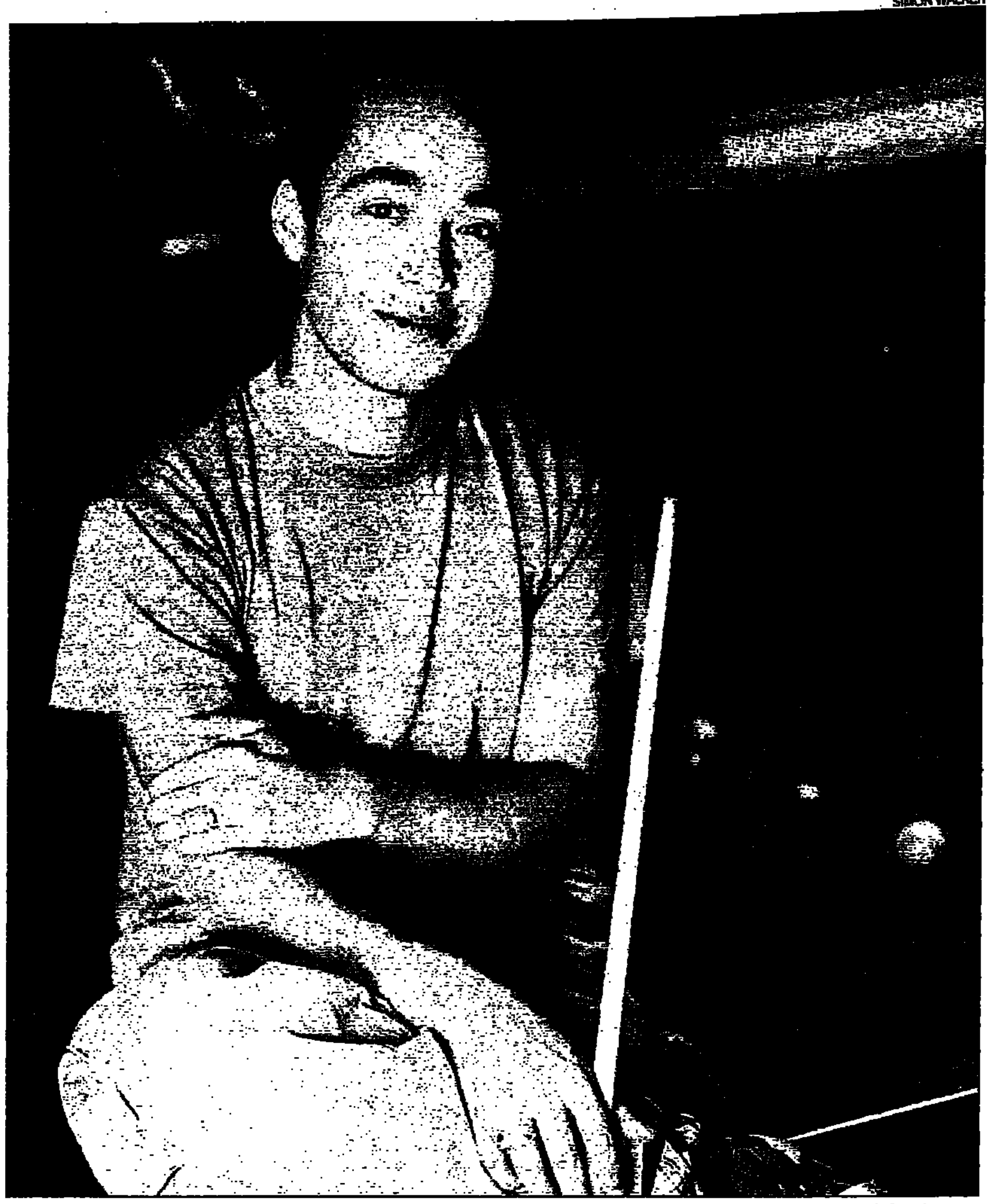
Future projects include recording with Ernest Ranglin, the legendary Jamaican guitarist who taught Bob Marley, and a series of concerts inside Britain's prisons. "I've got a cousin who works in the Prison Service's health unit. I don't want to play for the lifers, I want to do something for the people who are coming back out again."

One minute Quaye seems brashly self-confident, even dangerously so, and the next he appears youthfully vulnerable. It is a winning combination and, if he plays it right, he surely has a multicultural world at his feet. "I want to be doing this for a long time," he says. "My school reports all used to say this guy would be amazing if only he channelled his energy in the right direction. I feel that's what I'm finally doing."

And with that he caresses yet another red into the pocket from an improbable angle.

● It's Great When We're Together *is released on Nov 17 by Epic*

SIMON WALKER



He writes, he sings, he gives his driver 100-point starts at snooker — and beats him. That's renaissance man Finley Quaye

HMV
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top**dog**for**music**

Not such a happy Monday

BJÖRK was a regular. Goldie, Jarvis Cocker and David Byrne enjoyed the club's feel. Trendspotters came from all corners: Tokyo, Amsterdam, New York, Cape Town. Last month *Time* magazine wrote that Anokha was about mixing cultures and crossing lines. Talvin Singh's near-legendary club night was, *Time* said, "the place to be on Monday nights". Exciting, pioneering, it was a showcase for the "sounds of the Asian underground".

Anokha signed off this week at the high point of its fame. The club was so popular they turned away 200 clubbers a week. Unsurprisingly, *Anokha: the Finale* was no different. As ever, you never knew what to expect. The upstairs bar had floaty modern Asian mind-music by Nelson Dilation and Muslim Gauze; the downstairs acts spanned everything from ace black rapper Cleveland Watkiss to German-born Lelonek's Krautrock/Indian speed beats.

CLUBS

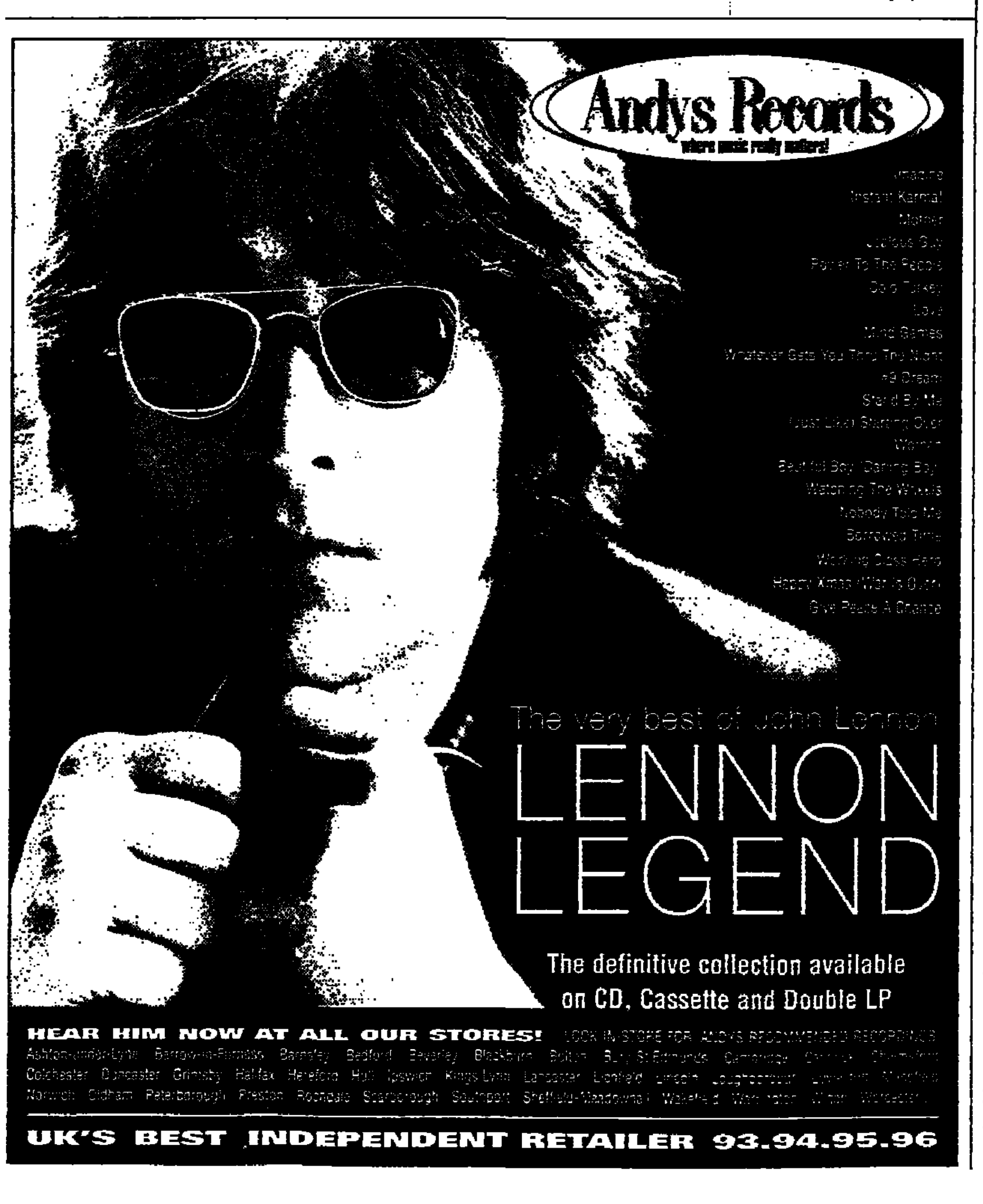
Anokha: the Finale
Blue Note, N1

Anokha grew fun by being eclectic. It was never a single-theme place, never simply drum and bass. Instead it was cut-and-paste, with live performance, rappers, singers, instrumentation. Monday nights motored on jungle breakbeats, broken up with tablas, santours, Bollywood soundtrack loops and sarangi chords. Anokha introduced a new sound to a mixed audience. One minute the 15-40 crowd bounced to hard-thrashing drum and bass, the next, out soared Lata Mangeshkar melodies or Hindi girlie-girl vocals.

Anokha is the Urdu for "unique", and it did its best to be so from the start, 16 months ago. There were North Indian classical sitar performances. The American electro star Afrika Bambataa did a live set, while Singh would slap the skins of his amplified tablas alongside an unknown 17-year-old Hindi singer named Amar, who went on to sign a £3 million contract with Warner Bros.

The star turn of the finale was Singh himself. Anokha's focus and fountainhead, his breakbeat tabla playing was masterful, possessed, even mesmerising. Little wonder the Indian classically trained 27-year-old has collaborated with Sun Ra, Björk, Massive Attack and Cheb Khaled.

ALEX WIJERATNE



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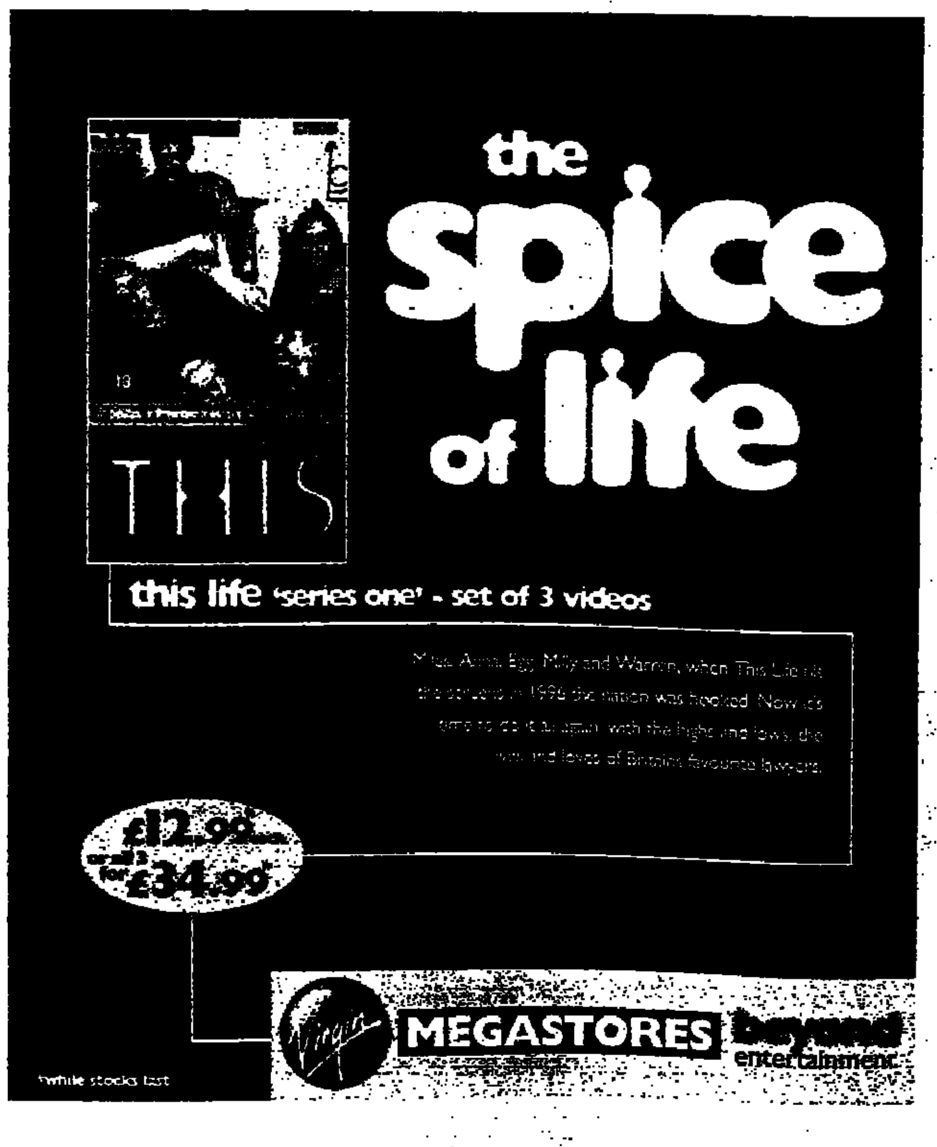

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NEW ALBUMS

BLACK GRAPE
Stupid Stupid Stupid
(Radioactive RARD 11716 £14.49)

IT WAS a politically correct backlash in the music press that signalled the fall from grace of Shaun Ryder's last group, Happy Mondays, and initial reactions to *Stupid Stupid Stupid* suggest that our moral guardians are once again sharpening their knives.

But while humour does not always excuse excess, it would be a very dull and pompous soul indeed who could not raise a laugh at the rude extravagances of *Stupid Stupid Stupid*. By the time the Grape get to *Dadi Waz a Badi*, a colourful reminiscence about a somewhat unorthodox parental role model, Ryder's credentials as the most cheerfully unreconstructed man in modern pop are firmly re-established.

However, unlike the dog days of Happy Mondays, Ryder and his fellow rappers Paul "Kermit" Leveridge and new recruit Carl "Psycho" McCarthy have kept a firm grip on the quality control. While Ryder's loutish bawl lends the album an air of bleary dishevelment, the dance-rock grooves and bobbing horn (or "hornography") arrangements are razor-sharp, thanks in no small part to the efforts of producer and bass player Danny Saber.

While not an album for those of an earnest disposition, nor one that takes Black Grape anywhere new, *Stupid Stupid Stupid* returns to familiar haunts with a rogueish gusto that would be difficult to resist, even if you felt you ought to.

ECHOBELLY
Lustra
(Epic 488967 £13.49)

THE wind of change that has swept so many new acts into the British charts during the 1990s continues to blow, only now it is those former beneficiaries who did not quite get a firm enough grip when they had the chance who are beginning to feel its icy blast: groups such as Salad, Gene and even Sleeper, who all promised so much, but have already lost their bloom.

Although they were always a cut above that lot, Echobelly still need a more convincing album than *Lustra* to avoid a similar fate, and the perverse choice of *Here Comes the Big Rush* as their new single has not exactly helped matters.

Sonya Aurora Madan still has the most seductive voice in British pop and guitarist Glenn Johansson could hold his own in any rock'n'roll band from Suede downwards, but for some reason the songs on *Lustra* do not capitalise on these strengths as fully as they have done in the past.

Madan's lyrics often sound needlessly complicated and on numbers such as *Paradise* and *Wired On* she seems to be striving for a dark resonance that is at odds with the bouncy feel of the tunes themselves. "Slaughterhouse nursery rhyme/ Numb it with your anodyne" she sings on *Iris Art*, a song blessed with a typically appealing guitar motif and pop chorus, but rather too opaque to engage the emotions.

B.B. KING
Deuces Wild
(MCA MCD 11722 £13.99)

HE REMAINS a living legend, king of the blues guitar and all that, but it has to be said that B.B. King has surrendered all artistic initiative with this collection of duets performed with various veterans of the rock elite, an attempt to emulate an idea which successfully resurrected John Lee Hooker's career in the 1980s, but which now seems rather old hat.

The cast of participants is depressingly familiar — Van Morrison, Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt, Joe Cocker, Paul Carrack, Dr John among others — ditto the songs, which include such predictable evergreens as *Rock me Baby*, *The Thrill is Gone*, *Let the Good Times Roll* and *Confessin' the Blues*. Even the more adventurous collaborations, such as *Keep it Coming*, featuring the rap star Heavy D, are torpedoed by the unfailingly smooth, supper-club politesse of the arrangements.

Having got this out of his system, King should now approach producer Rick Rubin and get him to supervise a proper back-to-the-roots project like the last two Johnny Cash albums.

REGURGITATOR
Tu-Plang . . .
(Coalition 3984-20301 £15.49)

THE delightfully named Regurgitator are an electro-punk trio from Brisbane. Already big stars in Australia, they are now beginning to amass a cult following over here thanks to their single, *Blubber Boy*, an alternative pop belter which has slipped on to the playlist of London's XFM radio station like a hand into a glove.

They have some neat jokes and caustic words to say about subjects ranging from Third World debt to misogynist rap artists on their fast-moving debut album *Tu-Plang . . .* ("Thai for juke-box," it says here).

With an outlandish sense of humour that recalls the Presidents of the United States of America but with a far harder edge, Regurgitator appropriate a grab-bag of influences — from the Red Hot Chili Peppers to Beck — but, in the final analysis, never really settle on one style long enough to make it their own.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(–)	**Spiceworld**	Spice Girls (Virgin)
2	(1)	**Urban Hymns**	Verve (Hut)
3	(2)	**Greatest Hits**	Eternal (EMI)
4	(3)	**Postcards from Heaven**	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
5	(9)	**Lennon Legend**	John Lennon (Parlophone)
6	(4)	**Fresco**	M People (M People)
7	(7)	**White on Blonde**	Texas (Mercury)
8	(6)	***It's my Life***	*Sash! (Multiply)*
9	(5)	**Be Here Now**	Oasis (Creation)
10	(14)	**Backstreet's Back**	Backstreet Boys (Jive)

Copyright CIN

● *Figure in brackets denotes last week's position*

Great pop songs should not be used to sell things, OK?

Ad – and subtract

CAITLIN MORAN

I had a horrible epiphany last week. I was asked by a 13-year-old girl who Aretha Franklin was. My initial tack — First Lady of Soul; *Respect*; the woman in slippers who refuses to serve four fried chickens and a Coke in *The Blues Brothers* — was met with that 13-year-old girl look of "I'm trying to understand you, but you're just being too stupid". Hauling in my sails of explanation, I reset them to cruise past *I Say a Little Prayer*.

"Dunno that one [Satan's own smirk] — can you sing it?"

Attempting to avoid squawking an Atlantic hymn to a bus full of damp accountants clutching vinyl briefcases, I found myself saying: "Err, you know, it's uh — blimey trousers — um, that one from the Midland Bank advert: 'I want to start up on my own.' "

There was a nod of recognition before she turned away, blushing. As a sudden thunderbolt of shame hit our seats, I tried to work out what had humiliated me more: that I was now using adverts as a Pop Reference, or that the next generation's only experience of Aretha is irrevocably intertwined with the knowledge that an APR of 14.8 per cent can be variable.

Pop tunes used in adverts must rank highly as one of the most disgusting, craven acts of degradation against music known to humanity. It fills me with the same combination of sadness and fury that looking at small jars of salmon sandwich paste does. The noble salmon! Travelled from gravel beds high in the Scottish mountains, across the Pacific and back again to spawn atop a foaming waterfall; and known by the majority as a virulent pink paste.

The noble Aretha! Travelled from cold, mountainous Detroit across to Atlantic Records; swimming up cataclysmic waterfalls of human experience to spawn celestial pop; and known by the majority for a dinky jingle flogging overdrafts to start up small cafés.

Countless songs are, as we speak, being ruined by advertising; the Velvet Underground's *Venus in Furs* is the kind of song that you have to hear for the first time in a darkened room, feeling a bit mysterious. *Venus in Furs* is *not* the kind of song that you should first hear in between parts one and two of *London's Burning* while being sold tyres. It rather mars the ruinous ambience.

There is precious little dignity involved in being a songwriter anyway. Trying to find new ways of saying: "I love you," a phrase lavished on pet iguanas, new cars and barmen across the country on a Friday night, is not a dignified job. But when you finally, against all the odds, manage to find a way of scrubbing the verdigris from an encrusted sentiment and send it out, shiny and true into the world again, you may well find that six years later everyone remembers it as something to do with potato waffles. Some days, you can even see why Kurt Cobain got that gun.

Pop's increasing use in adverts — in the past two years, Supergrass (for Rimmel), Blur (British Gas and Nike), Cocteau Twins (Fruitopia), Spiritualized (Toffee Crisp) and the Boo Radleys (Virgin 1215) have all taken the cursed jingle shilling — is a hideous trend. Being associated with a certain company can ruin an artist's work in two seconds flat. As Blockbuster Video have rather pettily threatened to take me to court for an unpaid overdue fine of £2.50 I now find it impossible to listen to any David Bowie, but particularly the Blockbuster-affiliated *Sound and Vision*, without becoming so furious I have to bite off all my toenails and spit them at the television set.

The use of classic pop in advertising dulls the imagination, and fosters the impression that huge multinational corporations are somehow responsible and intertwined with moments of transcendental spiritual blessing.

But if pop stars weren't such greedy little piglets, then advertisers would have to fall back on the sort of music that's karmically appropriate for their clients — a John Shuttleworth-esque songwriter plonking around on a Bontempi organ, singing "Pies only a pound/Cos we keep our wages down" while a row of animated pies line-dances.

● ***Jonathan Pryce meets James Bond. See page 38***

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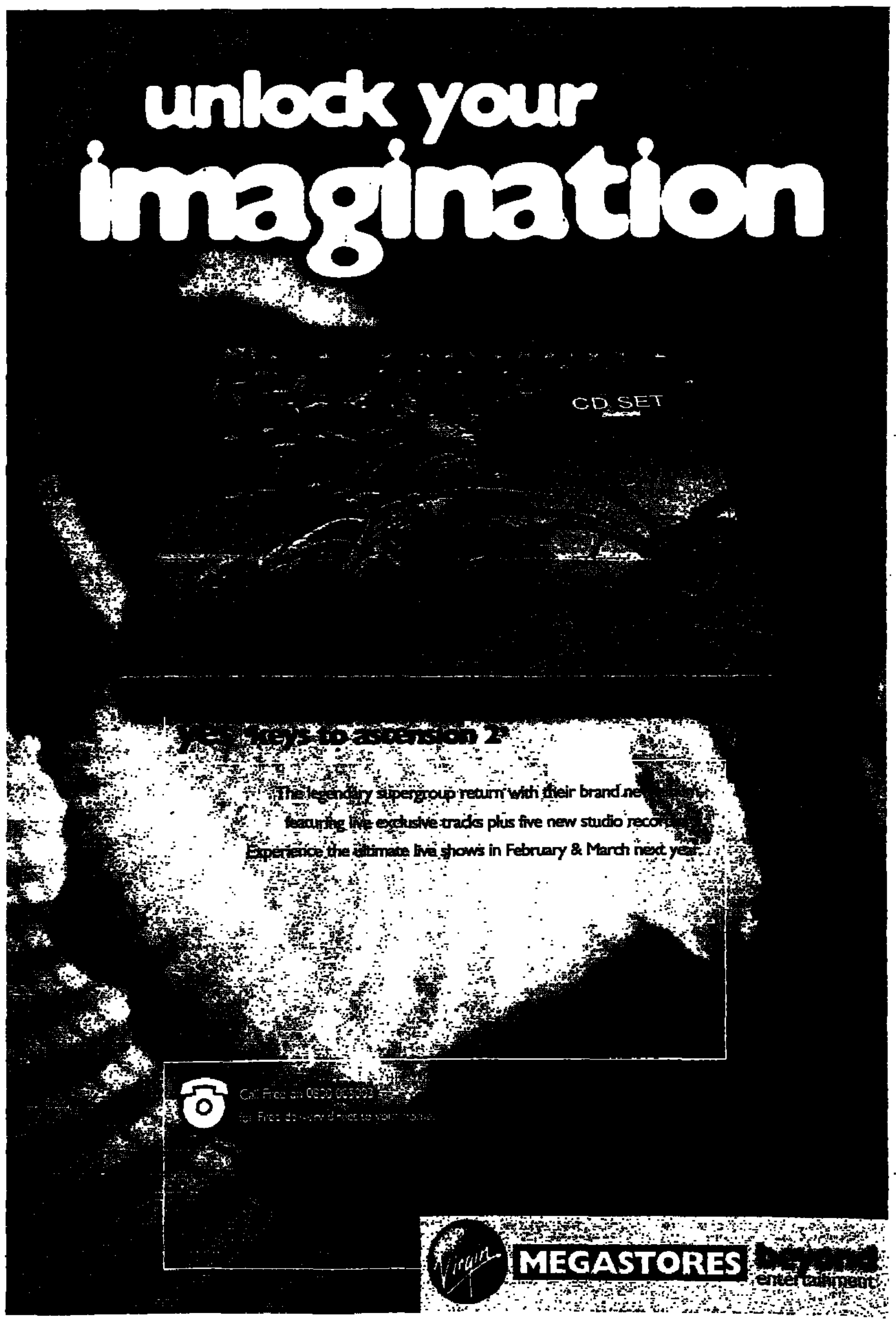
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WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

BIG GIRLS One week run for a *musical on the art of losing weight: five* girls, 13 musical numbers, created by Colin Davis and Christopher Lillicrap
Wimbledon Studio, The Broadway, SW19 (0181-540 0362) Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Mon, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm

CELEBRATING SCHUBERT The acclaimed baritone Andreas Schmidt continues the series exploring the Romantic composer's music with a performance tonight (8pm) of *Schwanengesang*, a set of 14 songs, half of which are based on poems by Heine. The series concludes on Sunday (3.30pm) with a recital by Oliver Widmer, Roger Vignoles and Alexander Mainikov
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) ♿

BORIS GODUNOV: The Kirov Opera and its conductor Valery Gergiev arrive in London for a royal gala performance of a semi-staging of Musorgsky's tragic work. Nikolai Putilin sings the title role in this production of Mussorgsky's original 1869 version, premiered at the Mariinsky Theatre, St Petersburg last June
Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 (0171-494 5000) Sunday, 7.30pm doors open 6.30pm. ♿

AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL. Celebrations continue here with a concert by the Australian Chamber Orchestra weaving together a colourful tapestry of a programme with music by Geminiani, Hindemith, Ravel, Haydn, Sculthorpe and Tchaikovsky. Richard Tognetti directs and is violin soloist.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

ELSEWHERE

***BIRMINGHAM:** Having completed the* continental leg of his current tour, popular songsmith Phil Collins gives his opening British performance a day late after his equipment trucks were held up by the French truck drivers' strike. A repeat performance tomorrow replaces the date lost.
NEC, Junction 6, M42 (0121-780 4133) Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. ♿

BLACKPOOL: Building on the company's successful *Madama Butterfly* shown earlier this year, the **Opera Nationala Republica Moldova** returns with a new staging of *La traviata*, Verdi's tragic tale of love, passion and self-sacrifice. The cast is headed by Mariana Colpos and Ionel Voineag. Alexandru Samoila conducts.
Grand Theatre, Church Street (01253 28372) *Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm* ♿

Valery Gergiev and the Kirov visit Drury Lane

MANCHESTER: Returns only for tonight's celebrity recital by the American soprano Jessye Norman. On the programme are songs by Richard Strauss, Schubert and Brahms
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street (0161-907 9000) Tonight, 8pm ♿

WATFORD: British premiere of John B. Keane's classic Irish drama **Sive**, set in the 1950s, with Catherine Walker *playing the girl about to be married off for money to a much older man.* Ben Barnes directs an all-Irish cast.
Palace, Clarendon Road (01923 225671) *Previews from tonight, 8pm.* Opens Tue, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thur, 7.45pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat Sat (Nov 15, 29), 2.30pm ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

***Anthony d'Offay:** Roy Lichtenstein* New Paintings (0171-499 4100) **British Museum:** Carter 1900-1939. The Schilling Bequest of Old Master Drawings. Modern Chinese Calligraphy (0171-323 8525) . **Design Museum:** A tour of bicycle design history (0171-378 6055) **European Academy & Accademia Italiana:** *Josefa de Obidos of Portugal (1630-1684)* (0171-235 0303) **Festival Hall:** World Press Photo 1997 (0171-960 4242) **Hayward:** Objects of Desire (0171-928 3144) **Museum of London**: Bedlam: Custody, care and cure, 1247-1997 (0171-600 0807) **National**: Making and Meaning: Holbein's Ambassadors (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait:** Sir Henry Raeburn (1756-1823) (0171-306 0055) **Royal College of Art:** The Quick and the Dead: Artists and Anatomy (0171-590 4444) . **Tate**: Turner on *the Loire* (0171-887 8000) . **V & A** Carl and Karin Larsson: Creators of the Swedish Style (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

■ AMY'S VIEW Judi Dench and Samantha Bond in David Hare's perceptive new play, exploring a strong mother-daughter tie in the years from 1979. Richard Eyre directs
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight, 7.30pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm (final performance).

☐ ART Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm

◩ A DELICATE BALANCE. Eileen Atkins hauntingly chilling in welcome revival of Albee's play about marriage, parenthood and neighbourliness. Maggie Smith plays the drunk sister. Anthony Page directs.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

■ ELECTRA: Zoe Wanamaker a powerful and poignant heroine in David Leveaux's production from Chichester. Marjorie Yates plays Clytemnestra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Tue and Sat, 4pm. Until December 5. ♿

☐ HURLYBURLY: West End transfer for the first hit from Peter Hall's Old Vic company. David Rabe's savagely funny play about Californian men behaving *very badly indeed. Wilson Milam directs* an excellent cast led by Rupert Graves, Jenny Seagrove, Andy Serkis and David Tennant.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5105) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm

☐ HRH. Corin Redgrave and Amanda Donohue play the Duke and Duchess of Windsor in another stage version of their doings, this time exiled to the Bahamas, and no music. Simon Callow directs.
Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Thur, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm. ♿

☐ MY BOY JACK. David Haig's gripping drama about Kipling's determination that his short-sighted son shall become a soldier. Excellent performances, with Haig himself as Kipling
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm

■ ROMEO AND JULIET: Ray Fearon and Zoe Waites play the kids in love. Short London run for Michael Attenborough's production before transferring to Stratford
***Barbican (The Pit)**, Silk Street, EC2* (0171-638 8891). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thur and Sat, 2pm. Until November 15. ♿

☐ THE SLOW DRAG: Jazz musical by Carson Kreitzer, loosely based on the story of Billy Tipton, a woman who passed as a man to find work as a jazz musician. With Liza Sadovy, Kim Criswell and Christopher Colquhoun
Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, London SW1 (0171-369 1735) Mon-Thur, 9pm, Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm

☐ STEPPING OUT: Musical version of Richard Harris's hit play (music and lyrics by Denis King and Mary Stewart David). Julia McKenzie directs Liz Robertson and her hopeful hoofers
Albery, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-369 1730) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thur, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

WOYZECK. Sarah Kane's gripping production of Buchner's tragedy of a common man. Riveting performances by Michael Shannon and Kate Ashfield.
Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until November 22.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . ◩ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) ☐ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ◩ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ◩ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) ◩ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **FACE/OFF** (18). FBI agent John Travolta and terrorist Nicolas Cage swap identities. Outrageous thriller that never knows when to stop. Director, John Woo
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

THE GAMBLER (15): Intriguing tale about Dostoevsky writing his novel *The Gambler*, with Michael Gambon and Jodhi May. Director, Károly Makk.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

MAXIMUM RISK (18): Jean-Claude Van Damme steps into his twin brother's shoes and finds trouble. Slambang action from Hong Kong director Ringo Lam. With Natasha Henstridge
Virgin Trocadero ♿ (0181-970 6015)

MY MOTHER'S COURAGE (12): A Hungarian mother has a brush with death in Nazi-occupied Budapest. Slight, winsome Euro co-production, with Pauline Collins. Director, Michael Verhoeven
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

UP ON THE ROOF (15): Ups, downs and yawns of a student singing group. Thirty likeable British film, with Amy Robbins, Billy Carter, and Claire Cathcart. Director, Simon Moore.
Plaza ♿ (0990 888990)

WILL IT SNOW FOR CHRISTMAS? (12): Drudgery and maternal love in rural France. Striking but dour first film from director Sandrine Veysset. With Dominique Reymond.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

CURRENT

◆ **AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS** (15). Amusingly cheeky horror comic with Tom Everett Scott as an American student who falls for the charms of Julie Delpy's werewolf. Director, Anthony Waller.
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ♿ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL** (18): Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A LIFE LESS ORDINARY** (15): Janitor and American heiress finally fall in love. Odd mix of comedy, fantasy and romance from the *Trainspotting* team. With Ewan McGregor and Cameron Diaz. Director, Danny Boyle.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

MA VIE EN ROSE (12): Exuberant, generous and stylish French comedy about a seven-year-old boy's determination to be a girl
ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720)

SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW (15): Danish scientist of Greenlandic descent sniffs out a murder mystery. Mishandled treatment of interesting material. With Julia Ormond, Gabriel Byrne, Richard Harris
ABC Shaftesbury Av (0171-836 6279)

Winning the Pryce war

He has been Fagin, Peron and a Bond baddie. Now he's a doctor. Carol Allen meets Jonathan Pryce

In August 1917 three men met at Craiglockart Castle near Edinburgh, which was used as a military hospital for officers during the First World War. The writer Siegfried Sassoon was there to be treated for the "mental disturbance" of publishing an outspoken pamphlet against the war. A younger officer, Wilfred Owen, introduced himself to the writer, whom he much admired, and Sassoon encouraged and advised Owen on the writing of what were to be some of the most memorable war poems ever written. And both men were being treated by Dr William Rivers, a pioneer in psychiatry. Their story is the subject of the new film *Regeneration*, adapted from Pat Barker's novel.

Rivers is played by Jonathan Pryce, who describes the character as a caring man who is himself hovering on the edge of breakdown. "He has this moral dilemma because, as the title suggests, he is regenerating people who are suffering from shellshock, making them whole in order to go back and fight in the war that crippled them in the first place.

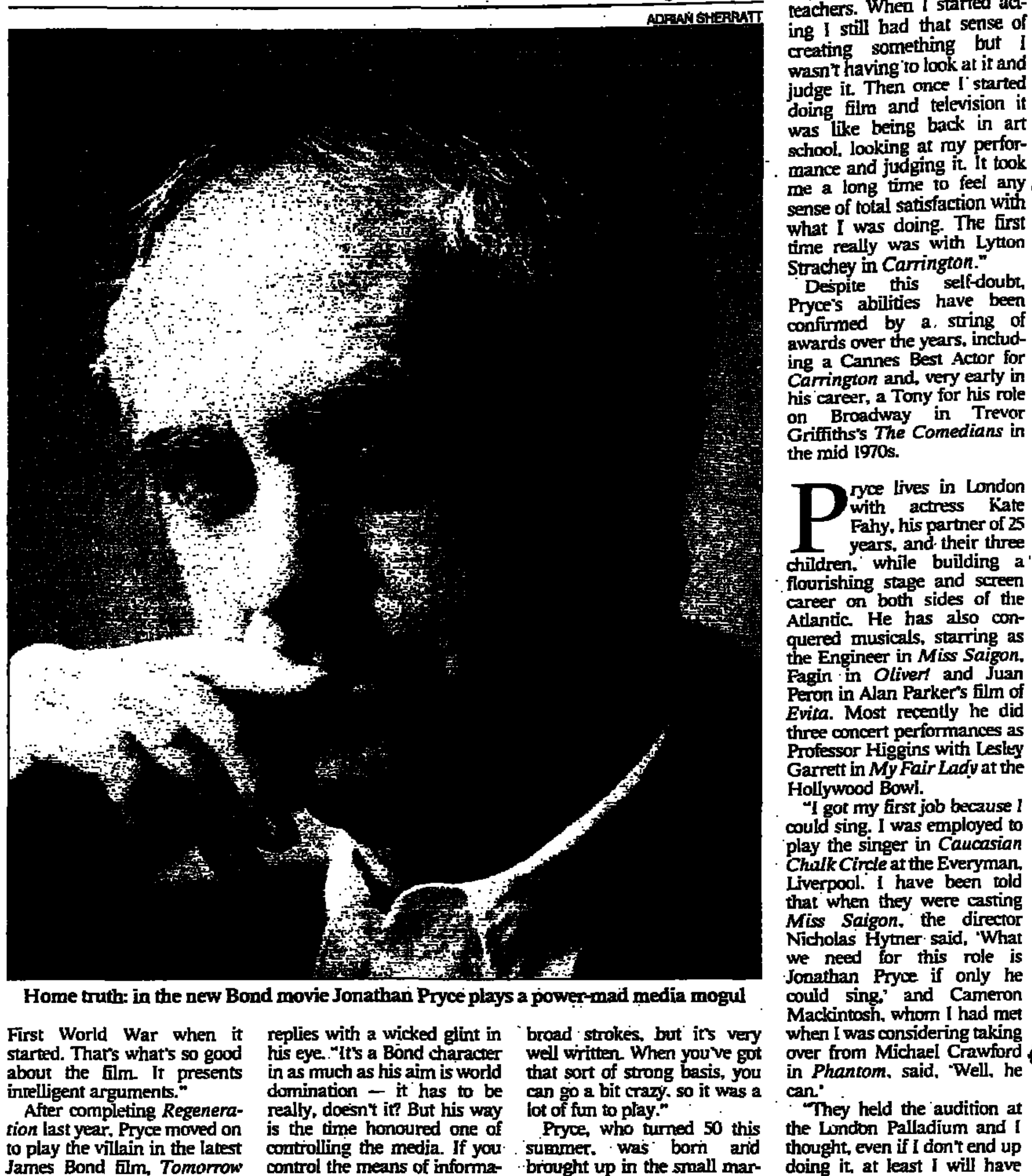
"It's towards the end of the war, he's weary, and because of his sensitivity he has taken on the traumas of his patients. He is becoming shellshocked himself by proxy. At the end of the film, when his superior officer congratulates him on his treatment of Sassoon, he says: 'For doing what? Taking a sane man and making him mad enough to go back to war?'"

Pryce first encountered the work of Wilfred Owen and the other war poets as a schoolboy, but has no doubts about its contemporary relevance.

"The contemporary resonances are enormous. Take the opening image of the film: dead, half dead and dismembered bodies in the mud of the trenches panned over a long camera shot. Then look at film or photographs of the Gulf War, the dead bodies lying half covered in sand, and it is virtually the same image. Soldiers in 1914-18 suffered shellshock; soldiers from the Gulf War are suffering what is now termed post-traumatic stress syndrome. Nothing has changed.

"And yet as Sassoon and Rivers say, neither of them can argue that no war is ever justified, and I agree. The war against Hitler was, so was the First World War when it started. That's what's so good about the film. It presents intelligent arguments."

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Home truth: in the new Bond movie Jonathan Pryce plays a power-mad media mogul

After completing *Regeneration* last year, Pryce moved on to play the villain in the latest James Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, which opens next month. He plays media mogul Elliot Carver, head of the world's fastest growing news group. Is it based on anyone we know?

"Not one particular media mogul, but there aren't that many who control satellite networks, have a vast newspaper empire and are in every aspect of publishing," Pryce replies with a wicked glint in his eye. "It's a Bond character in as much as his aim is world domination — it has to be really, doesn't it? But his way is the time honoured one of controlling the media. If you control the means of information then you control how people think and react. The slogan of Carver's newspaper, which is called *Tomorrow*, is 'Tomorrow's News Today'. He has the power to create tomorrow's news. He writes the headlines the day before because he knows what's going to happen because he has manipulated it.

"The character's drawn in broad strokes, but it's very well written. When you've got that sort of strong basis, you can go a bit crazy, so it was a lot of fun to play."

Pryce, who turned 50 this summer, was born and brought up in the small market town of Holywell in North Wales, where his parents were shopkeepers. After two years at art school he went to teacher training college at Ormskirk, became involved with the Unity Theatre in Liverpool through his college tutor, and won a scholarship to RADA.

"I was attracted to acting initially because there was no way I could judge myself," he remembers. "At art school I'd felt my work was never good enough for me and it certainly wasn't good enough for the teachers. When I started acting I still had that sense of creating something but I wasn't having to look at it and judge it. Then once I started doing film and television it was like being back in art school, looking at my performance and judging it. It took me a long time to feel any sense of total satisfaction with what I was doing. The first time really was with Lytton Strachey in *Carrington*."

Despite this self-doubt, Pryce's abilities have been confirmed by a string of awards over the years, including a Cannes Best Actor for *Carrington* and, very early in his career, a Tony for his role on Broadway in Trevor Griffiths's *The Comedians* in the mid 1970s.

Pryce lives in London with actress Kate Fahy, his partner of 25 years, and their three children, while building a flourishing stage and screen career on both sides of the Atlantic. He has also conquered musicals, starring as the Engineer in *Miss Saigon*, Fagin in *Oliver!* and Juan Peron in Alan Parker's film of *Evita*. Most recently he did three concert performances as Professor Higgins with Lesley Garrett in *My Fair Lady* at the Hollywood Bowl.

"I got my first job because I could sing. I was employed to play the singer in *Caucasian Chalk Circle* at the Everyman, Liverpool. I have been told that when they were casting *Miss Saigon*, the director Nicholas Hytner said, 'What we need for this role is Jonathan Pryce if only he could sing,' and Cameron Mackintosh, whom I had met when I was considering taking over from Michael Crawford in *Phantom*, said, 'Well, he can.'

"They held the audition at the London Palladium and I thought, even if I don't end up doing it, at least I will have sung on stage at the Palladium. For a boy who grew up in North Wales watching *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* with Tommy Trinder and Bruce Forsyth going round on that little revolve, that was great."

● Regeneration *will be screened tomorrow in the London Film Festival and goes on general release on November 21*

Musical mysteries

CABARET

Ann Hampton Callaway

Pizza on the Park, SW1

SCOUR the annals of popular music for as long as you wish, there is little chance of finding a song on the delicate subject of the medical condition that afflicts President Clinton's nether regions. Ann Hampton Callaway was breaking brave new ground.

What is more, the American singer-pianist's number was actually concocted on the hoof, prompted by words called at random by the audience — one of her favourite high-wire ploys. From an unpromising assortment of suggestions — "passion", "aftermath", "chocolate" and so forth — she devised a bluesy lyric that flowed to a gloriously risqué conclusion by way of rhymes as inventive as "demure" and "curvature". Give this woman a slot at the Comedy Store.

The statuesque Callaway is less a cabaret performer, more a one-woman off-Broadway revue. Though her opening set was ostensibly a svelte jazz tribute to Ella Fitzgerald (the subject of one of her recent albums), she enjoys romping all over the spectrum. She slips in waspish one-liners at the expense of reticent Brits, and sends herself up on the "*I'm Too White to Sing the Blues*" *Blues*.

You want introspection? Listen to her push the envelope on *My Funny Valentine*. You want impersonations? She can evoke Sarah Vaughan's melismas, a grainy Billie Holiday and even the sound of Louis Armstrong's trumpet. She writes distinctive songs too: one has even found its way onto Barbra Streisand's latest album.

It is hardly surprising that all these disparate elements do not always flow together particularly smoothly. Callaway possesses an idiosyncratic sense of pacing which occasionally has the audience lurching from melancholia to the highest of high spirits in a fraction of a second.

But the flaws are all part of her larger-than-life appeal. More to the point, her impeccable voice has grown in subtlety. The range is still impressive — enabling her to skate through a poised stop-time scat chorus on *Let's Fall In Love* or to add the odd quotation from Charlie Parker's *Ornithology* — but she increasingly appreciates the value of restraint. Her residency — a kind of fascinating musical mystery tour — continues until November 22.

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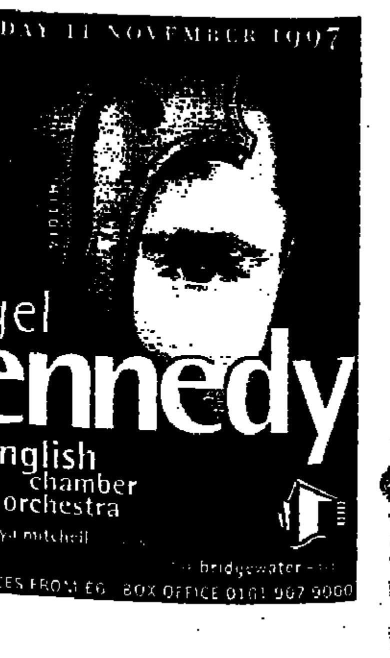

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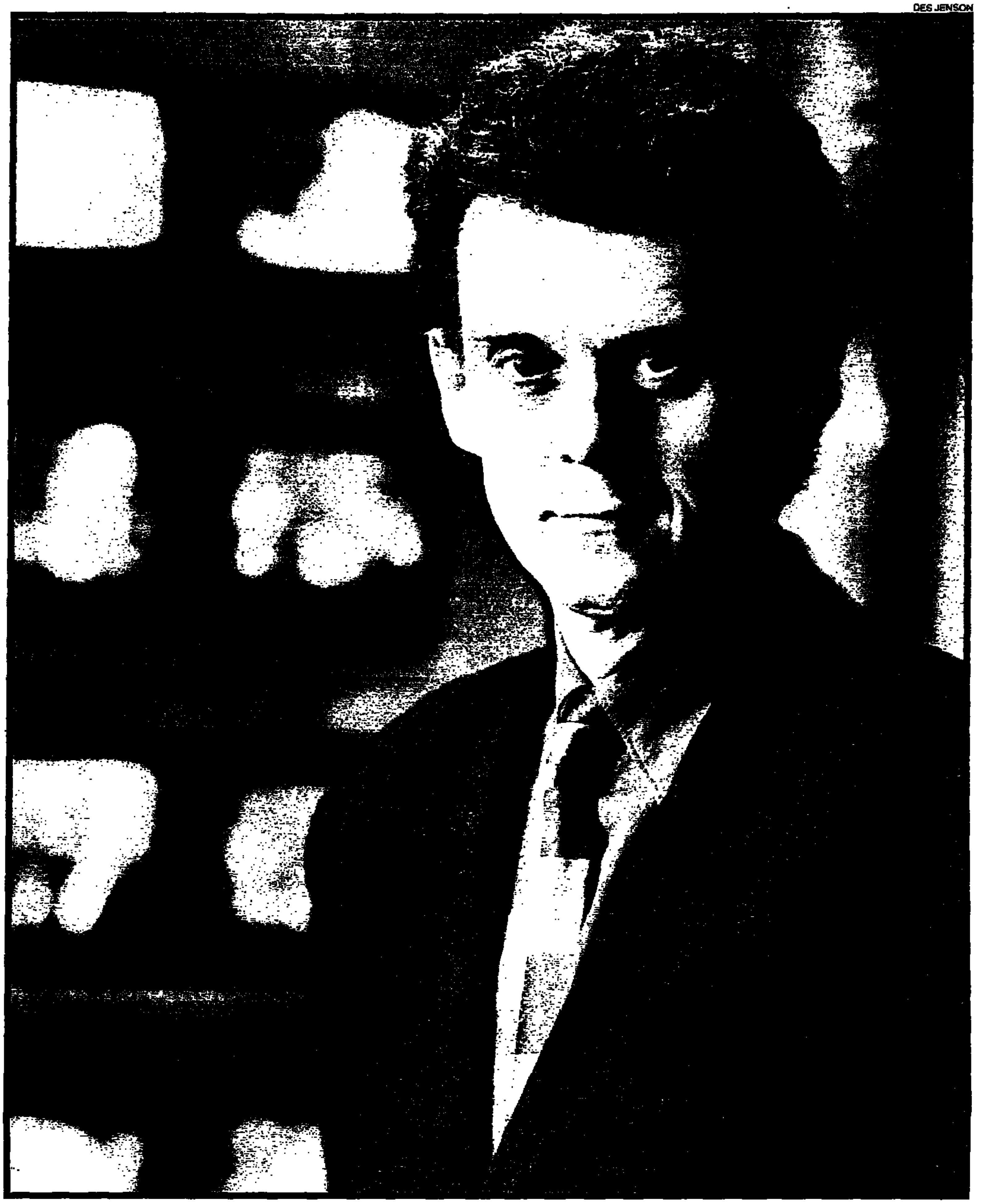
'Change is difficult but change is good ultimately'

In hs first interview since taking over Channel 4, Midael Jackson reveals his plans to **Raymond Snoddy**


DES JENSON

"Channel 4 has a sense of roots for me," says Michael Jackson. "It was where I started. I know how important it has been and will continue to be"

When Michael Grade took over as chief executive of Channel 4 his predesor, Sir Jeremy Isaacsnemorably threatened to rem and throttle him if Gradeid anything to damage "hbaby".

So ven Grade unexpectedly decd earlier this year to resignter a successful seven-year st, his advice to his succesr Michael Jackson, the Bl director of television, was vedifferent, but blunt in its owvay.

"Heid change a lot. Make a lot f changes," recalls Micha Jackson in his first intervy since taking over at the chnel on July 1.

Afteour months there is absoluy no question that Jacksd a quiet, almost diffident 3ear-old with a will of steel, srcely needed Michael Gradeadvice.

Withe typical hyperbole of theoadcasting industry, the ssip has been of "bodyes" emerging from Chann 4 headquarters as commsioning editors jumpeor were pushed from their pts.

"Qu a lot of people who left wted to go anyway. They h other things to go to. One owo people I encouraged,"ackson admits. It is quite sply, he says, a matter of bung a team "who, broadl speaking, feel the same you do about what you atrying to achieve" to drive tchannel on and move it forwd.

Som of the departures, howev were not what he had inmind — such as last week'sannouncement that Colin venthal and David Aukinhe men who built up Film C4, backers of hits such as *Fo Weddings and a Funen* and *Trainspotting*, were lving to set up their own fi company funded by Miram, the Hollywood major.

By cicidence, it is also all changeon the Channel 4 board, ith the chairman, Sir MichaBishop, head of British Mand, coming to the end of term within the next few wes.

Thos departing also include duty chairman David Plowright, the former chairman of Granada Television, and Sir David Nicholas, former chairman of Independent Television News. The channel is even managing to lose its Northern Ireland member, Mary McAleese, who just happened to get elected President of Ireland.

But as he speaks in a clear, classless diction, it becomes obvious that Macclesfield-born Jackson, the first media studies graduate to reach the top of the broadcasting industry, has a more radical vision in mind than simply rearranging people and posts.

The talk is of renewal and change and seeking greater clarity on what the channel stands for, and whether in its schedule it is addressing the right people at the right time.

"Change is difficult but change is good ultimately. If it isn't about change, the channel doesn't reflect the sense of whatever is going on around it. Then it's nothing. Channel 4 needs to be the most outward-looking, the most connected with its audiences and the most forward-looking channel," says Jackson who lived through and prospered in John Birt's permanent revolution at the BBC.

A dramatic illustration that Jackson's desire for change is more than fashionable rhetoric came on Tuesday when television producers were asked to come up with alternative ideas for Channel 4's news service. The move is a clear threat to Independent Television News, which has made *Channel 4 News* since its launch, and was made despite the fact that Jackson is a great admirer of the programme and believes it has set the standards of excellence by which television news is judged.

But the admiration, combined with a determination to retain a one-hour "broadsheet" news programme in prime time, has not stopped Jackson saying, in a sentence that must have sent a chill down the spines of ITN executives: "No supplier has a freehold on a Channel 4 programme, and that means there must be times when other providers are given an opportunity to see if they are up to taking on the lease."

It is clear that over time Jackson — who intends to be director of programmes as well as chief executive for the time being — will work his way through the Channel 4 schedule challenging everything to see whether it is the best he can get. Other than providing general direction, Jackson shows little inclination to specify precisely what he wants. It is up to the independent producers who make most of Channel 4's programmes to come up with the ideas.

The closest he comes to defining the template he is seeking to create is to say: "My vision of the channel from the Martian perspective is that if you turned to one channel that tells you what is really going on, what the undercurrents are, Channel 4 would be that channel. BBC1 is largely about what is, rather than about what might be," says Jackson. He believes it is his job to find the new people with the new ideas and is unapologetic about a reputation for pinching ideas from Channel 4 when he was controller of BBC2.

"Copying is a pejorative word. I would use the phrase 'having your eyes and ears open'. What are the best ideas? Who are the best people?" Jackson says. As he talks, his eyes flick compulsively towards the bank of eight television sets opposite his desk and he also eyes the traffic along the corridor outside his glass-sided office.

His determination to force through change and seek strategic clarity is reminiscent of the approach of John Birt, the Director-General of the BBC. "I am a great believer in trying to understand broadly the goals you are trying to achieve and the more clearly you understand that, the greater the ability to break those rules," he says in words that could have come out of Birt's mouth. But then Jackson adds: "It just so happens that one of our strategic goals is to be unstrategic."

The Channel 4 chief executive believes that Birt deserves a lot of credit for modernising the institution. Who would have guessed 15 years ago, he suggests, that the BBC would still be getting a 45 per cent share of viewing with its two channels, secured the licence fee and was then launching digital television and Internet news services.

Sometimes the testing of ideas at the corporation goes too far but the alternative would be "a kind of priesthood" of producers that is self-regulating and slow-moving.

"John has put a lot of electricity through the place in his own way," says Jackson, who faced an onslaught by Birt to try to persuade him to stay. It was, however, almost inevitable that this child of the television age should have found the offer to be Channel 4's third chief executive irresistible.

His first job after his student days at the Central London Polytechnic was the £50-a-week organiser of the independent producers' campaign for Channel 4 to be created and later he was one of its first independent producers.

"Channel 4 had a sense of roots for me. It was where I started. It was where I had come from before it even existed, and because I have a sense of the history, I knew as well as anybody how important it has been and I believe will continue to be," Jackson says. He thinks there have been two defining periods in the channel's 15-year history. The first was the initial burst of energy and creativity which increased the range of British television, sometimes in chaotic circumstances. The second was under Michael Grade, who "professionalised it and brought some discipline to it".

Jackson told the board subcommittee interviewing him for the job — Sir Michael, David Plowright and the new President of Ireland — that for the past couple of years the channel had not been quite as fleet of foot as in the past. He felt it was not at the top of its game, although it was still very successful in audience terms and attracted considerable loyalty.

"There was a need for renewal. The channel didn't need to feel provisional," says Jackson, who is coming to the channel at a time when an additional £80 million or so a year is in the process of being released, because of the phasing out of a complex funding formula with ITV designed to underpin the channel's financial stability.

Jackson accepts absolutely the extra obligations the Government wants to impose — more original programmes, fewer repeats and, if possible, 30 per cent of programmes made outside London by 2002.

But even as he moves to "renew" Channel 4's programming, Jackson is looking for partners to expand its commercial activities — new digital channels, a zipped-up Internet site and more emphasis on the channel's video label and its publishing operation.

"We want to make the most of every commercial opportunity that Channel 4's brand and its programmes presents," says Jackson, who plans to appoint a new director with commercial experience in the next few weeks.

Apart from using digital to show Channel 4 on wide-screen television, up to three other channels, including a film channel, for different periods of the day are planned. An archive channel has also not been ruled out for digital.

But one thing is not likely to change at Channel 4. Jackson will be just as likely to push the limits of conventional ideas on taste and decency as his predecessor Michael Grade.

If you have *A Dance to the Music of Time* in the schedule you can "push the boat out" late on a Saturday night.

"Channel 4 ought to have range at either end of the spectrum — braver and broader — otherwise what are we doing here?" Michael Jackson says.

Inhe wake of Louise Woodward's trial, supporters and opponents of televised court proceedings present their cases to **Carol Midgl**

The courtroom and the cameras

Louise Woodward walks free from r Massachusetts prison cell on onday, she will have more than mer her supporters to thank. For witht the power of television, Miss Woward's case might well have been justone-day wonder.

H it not been for the dramatic live pictes of her howling in disbelief at the guilverdict and the broad coverage of the omplex medical evidence, it is unly she could have commanded suc remarkable avalanche of support andympathy on both sides of the Atlic.

A if the viewing figures for the trial havproved anything, it is that the Brih are as absorbed by televised couroom drama as the Americans. Yet with hours of the verdict the Lord Chellor had moved to rule out the intuction of televised trials in this coury, stating that he "could not couenance" the idea.

T debate, however, is far from clo within the legal profession. Many leag barristers have been persuaded in ent years that courtroom cameras, wh are allowed to varying degrees in Aualia, Canada, France, Israel, Norwaspain, Italy, The Netherlands and theS, would be a positive step.

T use of all types of camera is prdbited in British courts as a result of a w introduced in 1925 that was desned to stop photographers taking picres of defendants in the court prcts.

America, research into the impact of evised trials has been carried out in 41 ites. In all cases the conclusion was thahe effect, if any, on court proceedings was favourable. Those opposed to the idea argue that defendants should not be put under the extra pressure of being televised while being tried: that witnesses may be influenced by what they see and change their evidence accordingly; that the behaviour and judgment of the jury and the barristers might be affected against the interests of justice. The media circus that surrounded the O.J. Simpson trial convinced many that television should never invade British jurisdiction.

But a report produced by a team of British barristers — led by Jonathan Caplan, QC, who studied international practice for the Bar Council in 1989 — was extremely positive about the idea. It recommended lifting the ban to facilitate a series of pilot projects televising court proceedings around the country and in 1991 the Bar Council backed a Private Member's Bill to achieve this. It came to nothing.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, believes that courtroom television would be a powerful tool for justice. Witnesses, he said, might be persuaded to come forward if they saw someone lying under oath. He advocates that broadcasting of trials should be introduced gradually, starting with radio, and with only civil and libel cases being covered initially.

Robert Roscoe, chairman of the Law Society's criminal law committee, said he had concerns about the broadcasting of edited "highlights" of a trial but had been converted to the idea in general. "If it had not been for television, the general public might not have been aware that Louise Woodward may have suffered a miscarriage of justice. It is because we have seen it that we are so interested. I don't think there is the same level of interest in the nurses in Saudi Arabia, because we haven't been able to see what is going on.

"One can't help but wonder if there might have been an outcry much earlier into miscarriages of justice cases such as the Guildford Four if their trials had been televised."

Louise Woodward and O.J. Simpson: their trials proved the power of television

But Mark Stephens, a media law specialist, said televised trials were "more about the Roman arena than the rule of law".

"It puts unfair stress on the defendant at a time when they are fighting for their liberty in what is already an alien environment. As we have seen with famous trials such as those involving Joan Collins, O.J. Simpson and the Menendez brothers, you get lawyers showboating."

"In the Woodward case, the judge actually stood up to address the jury. Judges never stand up, they command from on high, and one can only conclude that it was to allow him to be seen on television. Every day there were flowers in the courtroom and it was as if the stage was being dressed for a soap opera.

"It is true that television brought advantages for Louise Woodward. She probably wouldn't have got the defence team she got without it. But we are not talking about one celebrated case. We are talking about hundreds of cases, and they are about life and death issues."

Sky News, which cleared its schedules to broadcast the Woodward trial, reported that more than six million people watched it, many staying up until the early hours of the morning to follow events. Its ratings increased by up to 1,000 per cent at key moments.

Forty-eight of the 50 US states allow television cameras but the rules vary. Only Mississippi and South Dakota and federal courts up to and including the Supreme Court continue to ban them. In virtually every state, however, if the judge does not want cameras, they are not allowed.

Court TV, based in New York, is the main company specialising in court coverage. In the six years that it has been running, it has screened about 700 cases and it claims to be available in 32 million households across America. In 1991 it had four million subscribers. By 1997 there were more than 33 million.

Supporters of the system argue that television makes the judicial system more accessible to people and gives them more confidence in it if they can see justice being done.

The British barrister and broadcaster Fenton Bresler, however, is fervently opposed to live coverage. "The only way in which television coverage should be allowed for cases tried in Britain's courtrooms is when the trial is safely over and never when the defendant has been acquitted," he says. "He or she should be entitled to live the rest of their life without the evidence against them, which has been rejected by the jury, being continually brought up.

"The Americans can do what they want with their system but I am convinced that live coverage during the course of a trial, if ever adopted over here, would inevitably lead to lower standards — even though our courtoom advocates traditionally operate at a much higher level of dignity and integrity."

The opinion of the British public in England and Wales is divided over the issue. A MORI survey of 2,000 people carried out last year for the BBC found that 49 per cent were against televised trials and only 36 per cent in favour. But many people believe that if the survey were repeated today, in the wake of Louise Woodward's trial, the results might be very different.

هكذا من الاهل

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Auntie's new babies

Could extra services prove too much for the BBC, asks **Damian Whitworth**

DES JENSON

Valerie Sanderson and Krishnan Guru-Murthy, presenters on the BBC's often muddled News 24

Until this week you knew more or less where you were with the BBC. Two television channels, five national radio options, local radio stations just about everywhere and the reassuring World Service to be your friend in foreign climes.

Now, to the average licence-fee payer, dear old Auntie, always regarded as a little dotty, appears to have gone completely bats.

As she celebrates her 75th birthday, she has suddenly decided to embark on some new adventures. The question is: is she up to it?

In just over eight frantic days, the corporation is launching three major services. The first is UKTV, a network of four channels showing recent repeats of BBC programmes to cable and satellite television subscribers.

One of the channels, UK Gold, has been running for a while, supplying a diet of old favourites such as *Only Fools and Horses* and *Blackadder*.

The three new channels, launched last Saturday, are: UK Horizons, providing documentaries from *Top Gear* to David Attenborough classics; UK Style for reruns of cooking, gardening and home life programmes; and UK Arena, which has a schedule featuring films, drama and arts programmes.

Some of the cash from subscriptions will be reinvested to make new programmes, so the idea seems to be good. The BBC has the richest television archive in the world and if people have the time and the money to spend dipping into it, who can complain?

The issues surrounding the other two new projects are more complicated. BBC News Online, the new Internet service, and News 24, the 24-hour news channel, are both funded by the licence fee.

Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, says that we now live in a "pick 'n' mix" news culture where people want to find out what is happening whenever they choose, without waiting for the next news bulletin. That the BBC needed an Internet news service when newspapers such as *The Times* have been available for years, was undeniable.

And the service looks pretty good. A team of 40 journalists and Web experts produce stories and reports supplied by correspondents from around the world. There are hourly bulletins with audio and video clips and the *Nine O' Clock News* can be viewed every night. But the criticism is that the service is open to all. Not just those who buy a licence, but anyone around the world who has access to the Web.

The opposite is true with News 24, which the BBC calls the "Now O'Clock News". This is available to fewer than two million cable customers, or conventional viewers who switch on after midnight when BBC1 takes the service.

The service will burst upon the world at 5.30pm on Sunday. It has been running pilots for weeks and *The Times* was allowed into Television Centre on Wednesday for a look. This was a brave gesture by the corporation, for what it had to show was, frankly, pretty amateurish.

As we arrived, many of the channel's staff were in a union meeting. Exhausted, they are locked in dispute with management over rotas and pay.

One journalist on the staff said morale was "scraping along the bottom" and too few people had been hired to do the work. The journalist added that there was resentment among senior BBC correspondents at having to file stories for *News 24* as well as the other networks.

> Morale was 'scraping along the bottom' said one journalist

But the biggest problem has been the new technology which has been full of bugs. Watching an hour of the show was at times excruciating.

Presenters addressed the wrong cameras, the sound disappeared and then the pictures disappeared. At one point it was announced that we were going over to sport ... and a picture of Louise Woodward sat on the screen for five minutes.

Live location reports, which need not have been live, dragged on for far too long, with poor reporters squirming as they struggled to fill time. One unfortunate chap, in a restaurant for a feature on allergy-free food, still had not been served his meal at the end of the bulletin. The best entertainment came from the shots of the newsroom behind the presenters' shoulders. Journalists wandered about eating their lunch and walking towards the cameras before realising that they could be seen and then reeling away.

No doubt such technical glitches will be ironed out and News 24, with all the BBC's worldwide resources, will become a service to rival Sky News and CNN. But at a time when the BBC is attempting to make 30 per cent cuts across the board in its news departments, one has to wonder if it is spreading itself too thinly.

In the handbook given to reporters and producers, there is some extraordinary advice for lone correspondents in the field with a camera and no back-up.

It suggests that they climb into a shopping trolley and ask a member of the public to push them along. Failing that, it recommends they try a wheelchair. After Sunday, some BBC executives might be feeling in need of just such a mode of transport.

Why the press is not guilty of overkill

National newspaper editors have been unanimous in their decision about the biggest news story of the past eight days.

The verdict of guilty in the trial of Louise Woodward, the British au pair accused of murdering eight-month-old Matthew Eappen in Massachusetts, has dominated front pages and news bulletins.

Viewed from an editor's chair, it was a human interest story of sensational proportions. There was an accusation of murder, a 19-year-old British woman at bay in an American courtroom and a suspicion that she was found guilty simply because she was British. At the heart of the trial was an obsession that nags the conscience of every working man and woman who places their children in the care of a nanny, au pair or childminder.

All the tabloids were instantly convinced that the jury was wrong. *The Sun* and *The Mirror* immediately launched campaigns to free Louise from prison. "Stitched up," proclaimed *The Mirror*, urging readers to call President Clinton. It was "an insult to justice", declared *The Express*. "So Unfair," proclaimed the *Daily Mail* (quoting Miss Woodward's parents): American justice was now on trial.

The response from the broadsheets was cooler and less chauvinist. It had been a fair trial, according to *The Guardian*. The jury was entitled to its evaluation, said *The Times*. Louise was in the hands of 12 good men and women, added *The Daily Telegraph*. Yet the broadsheets still stand accused by some critics of overkill in their treatment of the story.

One such critic was the commentator George Walden, the former Conservative MP, who attacked the "tabloidisation" of the broadsheets. Surely, he argued in London's *Evening Standard*, it was the function of the quality papers to act as a corrective to the popular, emotive mood.

I wonder whether Mr Walden was watching *The Nine O'Clock News* on the night that he wrote his article — and, if so, whether he reflected on the item announcing that Judge Hiller Zobel has decided to release his ruling next week not directly to newspapers, but on the Internet and to eight global news organisations.

For what we have witnessed in the past week (as we did in the week after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales) is a global news story in which newspapers are not — as once they were in the days when *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* did not offend Mr Walden — the primary source of news.

The trial in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was broadcast live on British television, and the jury's verdict was reported on radio, television and the Internet hours before it was published in the newspapers. The news itself is now happening on the Internet and on television, with newspapers following behind.

It is in this threatening environment — in which the villagers of Elton, Cheshire, speak directly to Cambridge, Massachusetts, without any intervention from Fleet Street, the *Liverpool Echo* or the *Ellesmere Port Pioneer* — that editors must now fight for the survival of newspapers into the next millennium. It is not a fight that can be waged or won from Mr Walden's armchair.

Newspapers will not survive in the new media world unless they can attract — and keep — readers. And whether editors succeed or fail in this new war will depend on them acknowledging the rising competition from broadcasting and the Internet, judging the new role of newspapers within the emerging news environment, and judging which news stories will most appeal to their readers.

In this new world, as the Louise Woodward story powerfully demonstrates, many news stories no longer fit into simplistic categories of serious or trivial, tabloid or broadsheet. Across the nation this week the fate of Louise Woodward has been the main subject of conversation.

So "human interest" stories are no longer only for the tabloids. Whether Louise Woodward is innocent or guilty interests many constituencies — for example, all mothers and fathers with teenage daughters, gap-year daughters who could so easily find themselves in the same predicament, the ABC1s (who employ nannies, au pairs and babysitters) and the C2DEs (who supply them).

It is a story of absorbing interest for the professional classes, especially lawyers. As the *Daily Mail* put it, the case touches a nerve in every parent who has ever entrusted a child to another's care, every mother who works instead of staying at home.

Martin Dunn, once editor of *Today*, has recently returned from America, where he edited the *New York Daily News*. He compared British and American newspapers in a recent *Press Gazette*. Newspapers in Britain had grown up and realised that the old boundaries of upmarket and downmarket no longer existed, he said. Readers from all demographic groups were now interested in all subject matters. It didn't matter whether a paper was broadsheet or tabloid. Covering any story was possible, if it was written in the style appropriate to its setting.

That is why the broadsheets have devoted so much space to Louise Woodward — and that, Mr Walden, is why they will do so again next week.

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Is this Puttnam's big chance?

■ IS JOHN BIRT, all-powerful Director-General of the BBC, about to be reined in? Perhaps. Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, now has his first opportunity to appoint a new governor — to fill the soon-to-be-vacated post of deputy chairman. The right sort of governor could also check the long-standing friendship between the chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, and Birt.

The person who would love the job is Sir David *Puttnam*, *film-maker*, staunch Labour supporter and principled expert at rocking the boat, who has seemed to be saving himself for some very important arts job. This could be the big one. Only one thing: Birt is said to be far from happy at having his governors' meetings, so slickly disciplined, disrupted by a messy intruder who champions the difficult creatives. Birt, of course, has superb political contacts: Peter Mandelson worked for him at LWT.

Maggie Brown's MEDIA DIARY

The vacancy is created by the retirement of Lord Cocks, the former Labour *Chief Whip, whose input* since his surprise appointment in 1993 as deputy chairman — and despite the BBC's obsessive devotion to performance reviews — is hard to measure. His replacement stands a good chance of becoming the next chairman when Bland steps down in three years.

■ HERE is the real news from Channel 4. It is desperately seeking a new chairman before the sands run out on Sir Michael Bishop at the end of the year. The favourite, from a shortlist put forward by the board to the Independent Television Commission, is Sir Colin Southgate, 59, chairman of THORN EMI. Other candidates include Gail Rebuck, the Random House publisher married to new Labour image creator Philip Gould, and the businessman Christopher Haskins, chairman of Yorkshire-based Northern Foods, trustee of Demos *and a former member of* the Commission for Social Justice.

Sir Colin is said to be Channel 4's favourite, the kind of solid businessman it needs to balance the creative talents of its chief *executive Michael Jackson*. At company meetings he can appear prickly, but over lunch he can mellow into quite a pleasant sort. And whereas Bishop, as head of British Midland Airways, could rustle up the occasional campaign plane for John Major, Southgate has rock music, showbiz and computer industry credentials to chime with new Labour's rhythms and visions.

■ SIR David English, editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers, drew on all of his diplomatic skills at the Guild of Editors' conference last weekend, where he unveiled the first draft of a new press code being worked on for the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). *It is* clear that many provincial and magazine editors were irritated by the way the chairman, Lord Wakeham, bounced them into a toughened code in the days after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. "We're not only putting on the handcuffs, we willingly make them, too," said Chris Oakley, president of the Newspaper Society. The draft is heavily influenced by code committee member Charles Moore, Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*. Sir David admitted to doubts: a clause ruling out payment in all circumstances to children is unlikely to survive because it undermines a key source of copy for women's magazines and regionals, paying for heart-rending personal battles against disease, bullying or gymslip pregnancy. Add in other areas of dispute: no naming *of the under-16s*; a catch-all definition of a "private place" as being where people "have a reasonable expectation of being private", a move to outlaw "persistent pursuit", and it seems clear that it will be *months before a final version* reaches the public.

Sir David also raised the controversial prospect that the PCC should have a reinstated power to call off the pack, or act on its own authority, rather than waiting for someone directly affected to complain. As he said, there are many instances when the code of practice is broken but papers get away with it because no one starts procedures. But this brought a dismayed reaction from Professor "Bob" Pinker, the privacy commissioner and longest-serving member of the PCC, who fears that his job will be untenable. How can you investigate, and seek evidence, if the people affected don't take part?

■ CHANNEL 4, ordered to be more of a public service, held a lunchtime bash for advertising salesmen this week at a *London nightclub*. A hostess dressed in black plastic took coats through a *red-feathered hole in the* wall. "You're in a brothel," she said. On stage Michael Jackson went head-to-head with his sales director, Andy Barnes. "What do you do all day," asked Jackson. "I flog spots," said Barnes.

BBC pecking order: John Birt (left), Will Wyatt (top centre), Alan Yentob (bottom centre), and (from top right) David Docherty, Peter Salmon and Mark Thompson

Chains of command

The Birt revolution at the BBC has produced a corporation that is top-heavy with executives, says **Sue Summers**

In *the six years since* John Birt took over as Director-General, the BBC has gone through a succession of painful convulsions that have altered its culture and turned it inside out. On one level it seems *unrecognisable from the cosy*, complacent bureaucracy Birt inherited from Sir Michael Checkland.

But some within the corporation say that, despite the apparent revolution of departmental change and marketing jargon, Birt's BBC is little different from the way the corporation has always been, and that the campaign to streamline its labyrinthine bureaucracy has only intensified it. Some at high levels of the BBC are already discussing whether Birtism will survive after his contract ends in 2000.

Last April saw Birt's most radical assault yet on traditional BBC structure — the division of the entire corporation into six individual "businesses". The BBC's two central activities, programme-making *and scheduling*, were separated into two directorates, production and broadcast.

The aim, like that of the NHS internal market, was to increase efficiency by bringing together in production all the BBC's programme-makers, from both *television* and radio, and making them "sell" their wares to broadcast. Broadcast, meanwhile, by concentrating its energies on commissioning and scheduling, would be better placed to service the BBC's main television and radio channels, as well as the plethora of new ventures, such as digital TV.

According to Jana Bennett, *director of production, these* changes have led to a reduction of 20 per cent in overheads and duplication in her directorate alone. This is not, however, how many of those working in the system see it. Far from eradicating duplication, they say, the creation of the two directorates has encouraged BBC management's worst empire-building tendencies.

While programme budgets are being cut to finance new ventures such as 24-hour news and on-line services, management jobs and bureaucracy have multiplied. Each directorate has its own head of finance, business affairs, PR and strategy. In addition, BBC broadcast employs strategists to service each of its four subdivisions — radio, television, *the regions and* education. These strategists are separate from those in the regions and in the BBC's policy and planning directorate, which one disgruntled BBC executive recently estimated to be employing 227 people.

"Because there's an element of competition between the two directorates, you get a situation where production is unable to share its strategy with broadcast," says one insider. "Production has had to hire consultants to help it to find out how to handle broadcast." This spiralling of jobs has been particularly notice*able at the top of BBC broad*cast. When first announced, the directorate was to be run by Will Wyatt, the chief executive, and one key executive — Michael Jackson — who had the dual role of director of television and controller of BBC1. But after Jackson's departure for Channel 4, the chain of command lengthened. Alan Yentob was made director of television but he was also given a deputy, David Docherty, then head of strategy — while a new BBC1 controller, Peter Salmon, was recruited from Granada. Three men to do a job previously done by one.

"At the end of the day, the heads of BBC1 and BBC2 [Mark Thompson] still *control most of the money*, so it's clearly to your advantage to have a good relationship with them," says one executive. "But at the same time, the two heads of production want you to have a relationship with them. Also there are Yentob *and Docherty in broadcast* and their boss, Will Wyatt.

"It's Kafkaesque for production heads because there are now seven bosses they have to doff their caps to. And under them, there are reams of consultants on both sides, plus a whole board structure on both sides. Senior executives are required to go for awaydays, strategy days and *board meetings with each*.

"It's the biggest disease of the BBC. Too many senior people are made to spend their time in endless repetitive meetings, chaired by bosses who overlap in their job responsibilities. So they have their eye off the ball."

Essentially the BBC's internal market is as meaningless a concept as that of the NHS. BBC Production may be a "business" required to make a "surplus", but since it is forbidden to make programmes for any other UK broadcaster, it is a business with just one client — the BBC.

One programme editor explains the paradox: "If I want to borrow a tape of an old programme from the library it costs me £15. The point is that the £15 isn't real money. My *department has to send £15 to* another department within the BBC, but the money doesn't exist. What does exist is legions of people who have to organise this mythical money moving around the BBC. It's the same with production and broadcast. *They have to have* people to negotiate with one another within the same building."

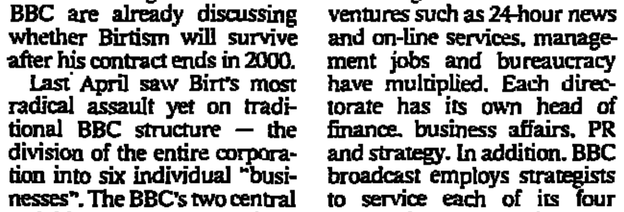
Such has been the wrangling over terms of trade between production and broadcast that at one point it was seriously questioned whether the split could work. Relations have improved now that broadcast has agreed in *principle to guarantee produc*tion to a minimum 60 per cent of its annual spend — much to the fury of independent producers, who say that if production is a real business, it should compete for commissions like anyone else.

Even so, some BBC executives believe that the broadcast/production split will not survive Birt's demise. "It's an old-fashioned philosophy which was imposed without being thought through," says one. "A lot of people know it, but no one could admit to making such a big mistake, especially not John." Another says there should be a watchdog. "We've ended up top heavy with administrators ad*ministering this new lean* machine — just like the NHS".

Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, has expressed concerns on this point. But it is a view that Docherty firmly rejects. "These jobs already existed *around the corporation, they* have just been reconfigured and are more visible now," he says. "We are absolutely intending to become more efficient. We can never stop searching for faster, easier ways to do things. The split has happened. We are learning to live with it. It's inevitably bumpy but the senior management all believe in it."

A leading management consultant is not so sure. "The problem is not the split but the BBC," he says. "It's a symptom rather than a cause. Most people are downsizing. I often go to meetings at big corporations where in the past there would have been 15 people in the room. Now there are three. My experience is exactly the opposite at the BBC."

Zenith's pyrrhic victory in battle of media buyers



☐ CHRISTINE WALKER, doyenne of the media-buying industry, and her former employer, Zenith, Britain's largest media buyer, this week settled their dispute out of court. To no one's surprise, Ms Walker agreed not to poach Zenith staff or work *with its clients without* Zenith's consent before October next year.

Zenith agreed a list of clients who will not be covered by the estrictions. It will claim to ave won the battle. Any ictory is pyrrhic.

From the moment Ms Walk- r resigned in October last ear, Zenith has behaved in a anner at best described as ngracious and fearful towards its renowned former hief executive. It relegated ews of her departure to the hird paragraph *of a press* elease. One could only hope hat Zenith would show more ass subsequently. It had seen w little good frequent trips court did Cordiant, its arent company..

The lessons were not learnt. ressure was piled on *Ms* alker in the courts in the ery week that her year's ardening leave was up and e was to launch her new mpany. To be fair to Ze- th's boss, John Perriss, and his management team, Ze*nith's future financial perfor*mance is far more closely linked to their own. Perriss will also want to have been seen reassuring shareholders that he has done everything possible to remind Ms Walker and his clients of the terms of her contract.

Whatever the intention, Ms Walker's new joint venture with M & C Saatchi now looks still more intriguing.

In all of this, the clients appear forgotten. Do they mind being told whom they can and cannot speak to? We will have to wait another year to find out. As with any other breakaway, there will be many clients who do not wish to move, and some who do. Legal threats are guaranteed to further their resolve.

All of this is so obvious that one has to ask who Cordiant/Zenith's spin-doctors are. And, perhaps, why the great panic over someone worth only paragraph three of a press release?

☐ THE full extent of the Government's U-turn on its pledge to ban tobacco advertising has been missed, despite the coverage given to the issue over the past two days.

Media attention has focused inevitably on the reprieve for the estimated £35 million the manufacturers invest in sponsoring Formula One motor racing. But the Public Health Minister, Tessa Jowell, also confirmed this week that the Government would rely on the forthcoming European Union directive on advertising to deal with the subject of banning tobacco manufacturers from direct marketing, and would not enforce a ban through domestic legislation.

This is potentially more significant than the Formula *One U-turn. Because there is* less EU-wide agreement on this matter than there is over the issue of advertising, the final decision will revert back to member states. In the light of Ms Jowell's statement this means a continuation of the unsatisfactory self-regulatory system we now enjoy.

JOHN PRYKE/REUTERS

Tobacco companies spend more on sponsorship than poster ads

The Government will, of course, point out that — strictly speaking — it is honouring its election manifesto pledge, which concentrated on advertising. It was only post-election that this was expanded to include sponsorship and direct marketing.

It had found that not imposing a blanket ban would allow advertising by the back door. After years of ever tighter restrictions, the tobacco industry spent just £42 million on poster and press ads last year, far less than it used to, and far less than it does on sponsorship and junk mail combined.

Now it has realised that such a blanket ban is both politically difficult because of the risk to jobs and public outcry if the sport is forced overseas. Such a ban is also difficult to legislate for without leaving loopholes.

What everyone knows but doesn't say is that consumers don't make such distinctions. *They do not see the word* "Rothmans" on the side of a Williams car (next year it will be Winfield) as anything other than advertising.

☐ THERE was a storm in a teacup last year when Omega watches pulled its ads from *Vogue* magazine "in protest" at the magazine's persistent use of too-skinny models. Now new ads from Omega's rival, Accurist, play on this kerfuffle by using a model so skeletal that she can wear her watch on her upper arm. Captions include "Watch your weight" and "put some weight on", which, claims the agency, proves the campaign has "the courage to smile at itself". As it happens, everyone was smiling last year. Inevitably, *Vogue*'s circulation went up in the month of the spat.

But if you don't work in Soho or Mayfair and have forgotten, or never known, about the affair, what would you make of it all?

Perhaps the agency could add the above information at the bottom of the ad to help bemused Christmas shoppers. Perhaps not. Expect the campaign to change next year.

● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of* Campaign

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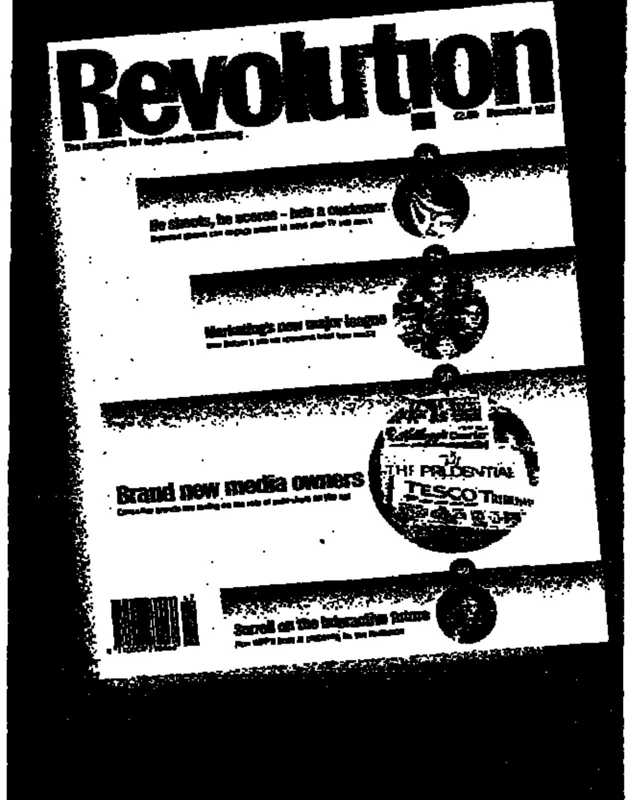

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No longer boss of the Island

Chris Blackwell's departure from Island Records has provoked intense speculation about his successor. **Chris Ayres** reports

Employees of Island Records could be forgiven for heaving a sigh of relief after the departure yesterday of Chris Blackwell, the label's founder and chief executive. Insiders believe he has not pushed the label forward as vigorously as he might have done: and it is a label, which has become heavily reliant on royalties from past successes.

Chris Blackwell

Blackwell, a 60-year-old white Jamaican with an estimated personal fortune of more than £80 million, has gained a reputation as someone who can muster huge excitement for a project only to lose interest completely the next minute.

He is notoriously difficult to track down, and spends much of his time travelling between his homes in Nassau, Los Angeles, Miami and New York. He also recently purchased Goldeneye, the former Jamaican home of Ian Fleming.

But such behaviour is perhaps understandable from a man with such a redoubtable status in the British music industry. After all, he is one of the few tycoons who can claim to have played a key part in shaping the musical tastes of the nation.

He founded Island Records in 1962 and aimed it at Britain's rapidly growing population of Afro-Caribbeans. The label was based in Brixton and became the first to create a successful business from importing reggae and ska records. For several months its only method of distribution was via Blackwell's Mini Cooper.

Jamaican music turned out to be a goldmine for the label, which had its first hit in 1964 with Millie's *My Boy Lollipop*. At about the same time, Blackwell discovered Bob Marley, who went on to become Britain's most important reggae artist and an Afro-Caribbean cultural icon.

Blackwell used the money that began to pour into the company to press records in Britain, and to expand into rock music, which was dominated by progressive and psychedelic bands at the time.

Mat Snow, the Editor of *Mojo* magazine, says: "Blackwell was one of the first people to perceive the shift in emphasis in the early 1960s from singles to albums. Island became famous for its psychedelic album covers and invested so heavily in rock music that it was seen almost as a rock label."

Island became home to bands such as Traffic and Roxy Music — fronted by Bryan Ferry — and Blackwell began to earn a reputation as a charming wheeler-dealer. In spite of the label's success, Blackwell secured loans against copyright — a practice which is now illegal — to stave off a financial crisis.

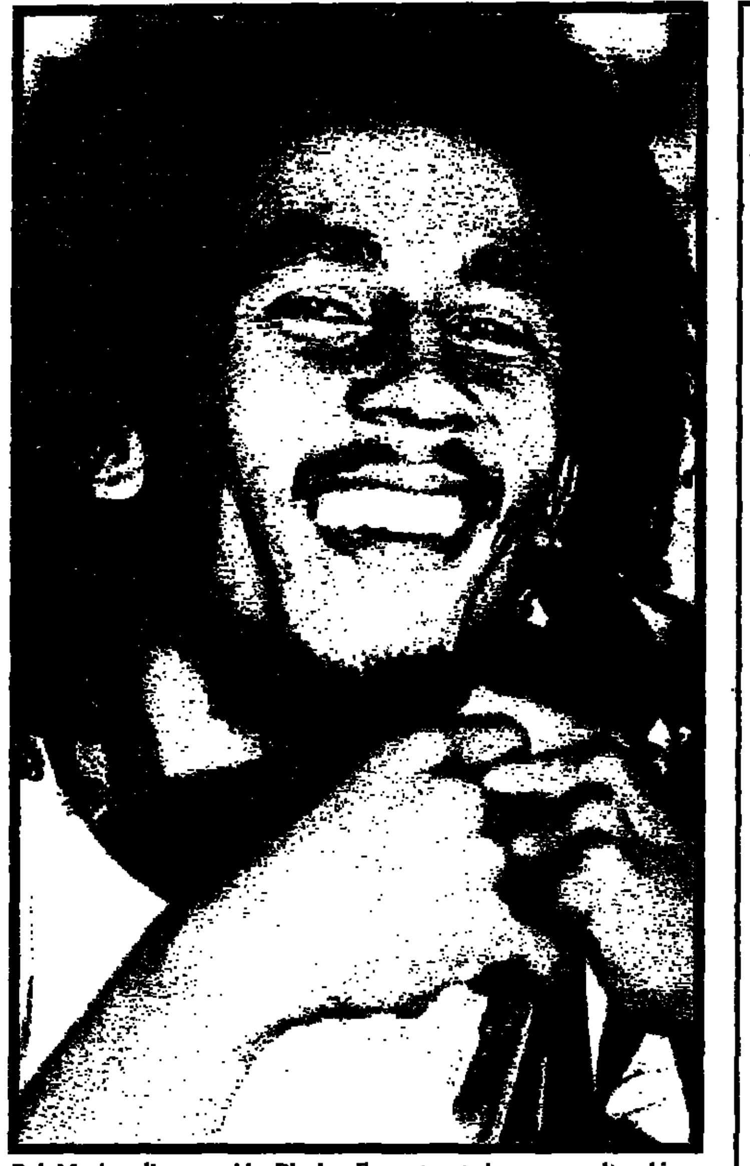
Snow says: "Some artists did end up having ill-feeling towards him because of the copyright issues, although generally he was so charming you would forgive him anything."

Island overcame its cashflow crisis in 1970 when it signed Free, a hugely successful band which became famous for its song *All Right Now* — recently used on a Wrigleys chewing gum advertisement. Roxy Music and Marley also enjoyed phenomenal success throughout the 1970s, although towards the end of the decade music industry commentators began to see a lack of direction in the label's management.

Island's last great moment came in the late 1970s when it signed an Irish rock band called U2, fronted by a vociferous character called Bono. By the end of the 1980s, U2 had become one of the most famous and successful bands in the world. However, the success of the group failed to disguise the fact that Island was losing its golden touch.

In 1988 Blackwell sold a large stake in the label to Polygram for £200 million, a move which is believed to have made him £80 million richer. He then began to expand his personal interests: he now owns cinemas in Brixton, Notting Hill and Edinburgh and is currently working on digital film production in Jamaica. Blackwell also owns hotels in South Beach, Miami, in the Bahamas, and at Strawberry Hill in the Blue Mountains, close to Kingston.

His departure from Island will provoke intense speculation in the music industry over who will take his place. Snow says: "Maybe someone will now be allowed to take over without having to constantly look over their shoulder to see what old Mr Blackwell is doing. I think it is fair to say that the label is rudderless and floundering. Its only recent success has been with the Cranberries and Pulp"


PICTORIAL

Bob Marley, discovered by Blackwell, went on to become a cultural icon

The digital vision comes into focus

Mention the words digital television to the average viewer and the result is either a look of incomprehension or a stampede for the door.

Even among some of those who have followed the slow march of technology that can bring us several hundred television channels, it is sometimes difficult to stifle a yawn. Is anything really happening out there? Is the world of television really about to be turned upside down?

The potential for confusion is endless. There is digital satellite television, digital cable, digital terrestrial and even advocates of sending digital television pictures down ordinary telephone lines, not to mention advocates of pumping Internet data and pictures along electricity lines into our homes.

This week, some of the fog started to disperse and the clearest signs could be seen that the television companies actually mean it. Viewers in this country really are going to be able to choose up to 200 channels of digital television in some form before the end of next year.

One of the reasons for doubt is that British Sky Broadcasting (BSkyB), the satellite venture, announced that it was going to launch 200 channels in the late spring of next year and then went to ground. The silence was deafening and sceptics began to assume that it would be unwise to hold your breath waiting for the new service.

The silence has been deliberate. BSkyB — a consortium in which News International, owners of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake — has been eager to shift as many of the dated analogue satellite dishes as it possibly could in the usual strong pre-Christmas market — even if they have to be virtually given away. That is why, if you spend £199 in a number of electrical goods retailers now, you will get a free satellite dish as long as you are prepared to take on a 12-month subscription. The thinking is that as long as you can entice consumers through the multi-channel satellite door with special offers, you will be able to persuade them to trade up to the latest digital service next year with heavy discounts for existing customers.

Analysts, however, have recently been taken to BSkyB headquarters and shown a fully automated broadcast centre already in place, which can handle 200 channels.

The apparent uncertainty surrounding BSkyB's plans feed back into the cable industry. Cable operators felt they needed to match BSkyB with 200 channels as soon as the satellite company launched, but did not see why they should go out on a limb in advance.

Now the process seems to be rather neatly coming together. Yesterday, BSkyB and Cable & Wireless Communications, by far the largest cable group, announced an agreement to get together to coordinate their digital plans. Not only will they launch their services on the same day, but there will be an enormous joint marketing and promotional campaign.

One of the sensible reasons for the two — who are competitors in many ways — coming together, is the realisation that great confusion will be caused if consumers are given many different messages about digital television at the same time. It would be the perfect recipe for consumer inertia. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the two largest media players addressing the market together with their different offerings.

At the same time, British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the Carlton-Granada partnership planning to launch commercial digital television in the UK next autumn, also took a number of important strides forward this week.

Rather like BSkyB, a number of regulatory approvals are still required, but the digital terrestrial group issued tenders worth about £250 million to attract makers of set top decoders.

BDB is just one of the organisations planning to offer digital terrestrial channels — up to 30 new channels can be received on existing aerials without the need for a satellite dish although, of course, a digital "black box" is needed to convert the pictures to watchable form.

All the UK's conventional broadcasters — the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 — have digital terrestrial frequencies and plan to launch new channels next year. The second related boost for DTT, as it is known, is that all Britain's broadcasters have agreed a single standard for the decoders. Anything else would have been ludicrous, but engineers can spend a long time arguing for their favourite formats. All the activity off screen virtually ensures that British viewers are about to be offered unprecedented choice. But do people really want 200 channels of television?

Two hundred channel systems will survive or fall on how quickly consumers embrace pay-per-view services devoted to feature films and live sports events such as Premier League matches. Then there are associated interactive services — home shopping and banking and the Internet displayed on television screens.

However great the technological challenge faced by those who would confront us with the digital television future — the job of selling that vision to consumers will be much more demanding.

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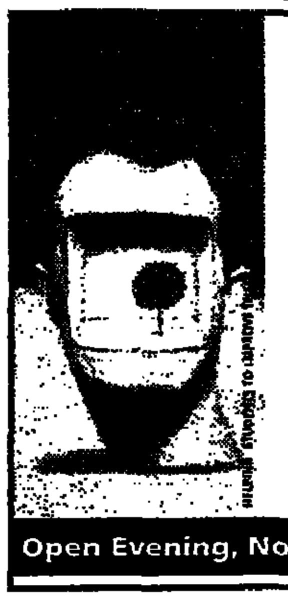

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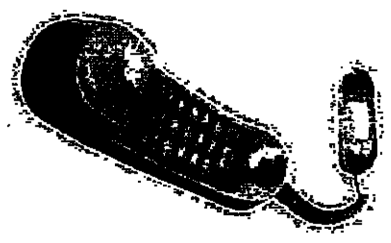

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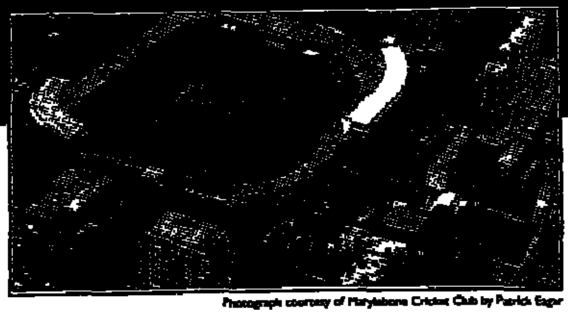

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EDUCATION

Independent, but broke

SALLY GREENHILL

Student numbers have increased by a million in a period when funding has been cut by a third

Further education desperately needs more money. Things might change on Wednesday, **David Charter** reports

An almost desperate air of anticipation hangs over England's 446 further education colleges. Four hard years have passed since they were freed from their local authority paymasters into a bruising period of independence. Under enormous pressure to expand, student numbers increased by a million in a period when government funding per student was cut by a third and 15,000 full-time teachers lost their jobs.

To add insult to injury, the most go-ahead colleges found themselves further penalised in January when the previous Government scrapped the "demand-led fund" for unplanned extra students because they were taking on too many recruits. This effectively wiped almost £100 million off college budgets.

Expectations are therefore high for Wednesday when David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, addresses the annual conference of the Association of Colleges.

Schools were found an extra £1.3 billion in the Budget and £165 million extra has been handed to the universities and colleges of higher education. If Tony Blair really is committed to "education, education, education", then the third arm of provision, further education colleges, also want a share of the spoils.

For the first time as Education Secretary they have a true believer — Mr Blunkett even taught at Barnsley College.

Three reports published this week give a worrying insight into college life which have only added to the urgency of the situation.

First came the findings of a National Audit Office inquiry into the growth of further education provision. It found that one fifth of colleges, 93 in all, were in "poor financial health". It also disclosed a huge variation in course completion rates from 99 per cent of students at some colleges to 27 per cent at others.

Next came the annual report of the Further Education Funding Council (FEFC). David Melville, the chief executive, said there were even greater pressures facing colleges next year after the demise of demand-led funds.

Mr Melville, the head of one of England's largest quangos, gave a warning in the strongest terms quango-speak would allow him that the Government's all-important attempt to hit its National Targets for Education and Training would suffer as a result of continued cuts. "The overall financial health of the college sector continues to deteriorate," said Mr Melville. "It is unfortunate that, at a time when the need and demand for further education is increasing, student numbers funded through the council may fall in the year ahead due to the reduction in the funds available."

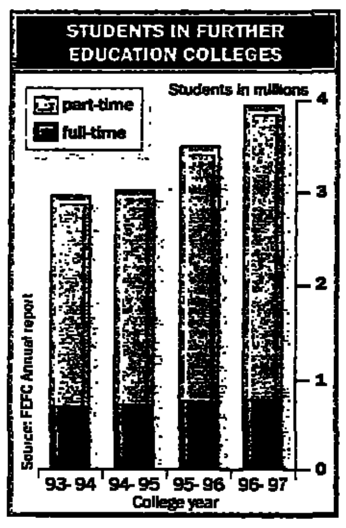
Finally Jim Donaldson, the FEFC's chief inspector, also delivered his annual report, saying that 92 per cent of college teaching was satisfactory or better in 1996-97, compared to 95 per cent the year before. He praised colleges for their recruitment efforts but issued urgent warnings on the difficulties of planning in an unstable financial climate, as well as mounting an attack on "inequity" in staff employment contracts.

Despite an often bitter campaign to move all lecturers to new flexible contracts, about 10 per cent remain on old-style local authority contracts giving them longer holidays and fewer teaching hours than their colleagues. "The persistence of old conditions of service alongside new is a source of inequity and friction which is overdue for resolution," Mr Donaldson said.

Most colleges rely much more on part-time teachers to keep down staffing costs and the growth of supply agencies has caused controversy over the pay and professionalism of the staff they provide.

Roger Ward, chief executive of the Association of Colleges, has been criticised for his role in promoting the rise of part-time provision but has robustly defended the culture change. "It is no secret that I have promoted the concept of agencies from the early days as one way to create a flexible workforce," he said.

STUDENTS IN FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES



However, Mr Donaldson, writing the annual report, said: "A complex curriculum . . . demands sophisticated teaching skills, yet the proportion of part-time teachers who are teacher-trained is relatively small in some colleges." He also said that, in some colleges, the remaining full-time staff were being forced to spend ever more time on the bureaucracy of organising the part-time provision.

All these tensions have dented morale among college staff who badly want a sign that their concerns are understood by Government. The signs, for the first time in four years, are encouraging. Further education colleges have been given a crucial role in the Government's "new deal" to provide training for the unemployed.

Sue Berryman, a spokeswoman for lecturers' union the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (Natfhe), said Mr Blunkett's first major speech to colleges since the election was crucial.

Natfhe is campaigning for an immediate cash injection of £250 million to avoid "financial meltdown". "Increasing casualisation has thrown so much extra admin work on the remaining staff," Mrs Berryman said. "Everybody is waiting and hoping that this will be the beginning of a recognition of what further education has been through."

Mr Ward, who has played down talk of financial crisis in the past, now admits colleges are at breaking point. "We are desperately seeking stability so that we can plan for the next three or four years," he said yesterday.

"We want vision and long-term commitment from the Secretary of State and if the money has to come from the university sector, so be it. Greater investment in further education will lead to greater enrolment in higher education."

David Blunkett's office remain non-committal about when extra money will be announced for further education colleges and refuses to discuss persistent indications that some will come from the income raised by university tuition fees from next October.

However, more money will be forthcoming. A source close to Mr Blunkett this week said: "We have a Secretary of State who believes in the importance of further education. He sees it as a ladder of opportunity for many young people and adults."

There are 446 colleges who literally cannot wait any longer to find out.

Helping disadvantaged pupils

New tricks can help underdogs

Education is "for the many, not for the few", as Tony Blair and David Blunkett have often said. But will Labour's education policies help the disadvantaged?

This is the group that few educational initiatives have so far touched, the group with the most to gain from education. The gap between the disadvantaged and their favoured peers has widened since the Second World War as income differences have grown.

These children face more challenges in trying to achieve good qualifications. They are more likely to live in low-quality housing, have poor diets and health care, and be in greater proximity to crime and drugs. Not surprisingly, they are likely to be less healthy, to suffer greater emotional stress and to have reduced opportunity and support for study at home. Yet they take part in the same competitive national tests and examinations as the most advantaged children.

Small wonder that as a group they do much less well.

A paper published this week by the Institute of Education, *Can school improvement overcome the effects of disadvantage?*, uses research evidence of the past 25 years to review the progress of the disadvantaged in our education system.

When we examined how governments had tried to deal with the challenge of the disadvantaged, we found three approaches: a series of meritocratic strategies (selection at 11+ and the Assisted Places Scheme), a plethora of compensatory mechanisms (free meals and the 1970 education priority areas) and a list of specific intervention projects (reading recovery and homework support schemes). Even when initiatives have improved the absolute performance of disadvantaged pupils, their relative performance has usually remained static or worsened.

More encouraging evidence emerged from our review of the impact of school improvement projects. This showed that schools can and do make a difference. For instance, the National Commission on Education's study, *Success against the odds*, details ways in which sensitive and focused leadership by the head teacher working with highly committed staff could raise achievement in schools with disadvantaged pupils.

Now we have reviewed the evidence, our conclusions are that school improvement is not enough. It is certainly vital to the Government's education project to raise standards of achievement in every school but will not solve the problems faced by disadvantaged children in their education.

Educational interventions need to be combined with other policies which attack poverty and disadvantage at their roots. Better co-ordination of the various departments and support agencies is essential. We urge the Government to continue its support for them.

We also recommend that schools experiment with different approaches to learning and teaching in order to find new ways of motivating disadvantaged children. Finally, we propose that schools with high proportions of pupils with disadvantaged backgrounds should receive a lot of extra help.

Expectations must be high for all pupils, whatever their background. A higher entitlement to resources for disadvantaged pupils would help to make this a reality. That is why we are cautiously optimistic about the Government's suggestion of education action zones. They may provide the opportunities and the extra resources that children in disadvantaged areas, and their teachers, need — but only if the Government heeds the lessons of earlier initiatives.

PETER MORTIMORE
AND GEOFF WHITTY

● *Professor Mortimore is the Director and Professor Geoff Whitty holds the Karl Mannheim Chair at London University's Institute of Education.*

● Can school improvement overcome the effects of disadvantage? *is available from The Bookshop at the Institute of Education, (tel 0171-612 6050), price £5, plus £1 p&p.*

Thumbs up for green fingers

Susan Elkin talks to the youngsters who have proved they are natural born winners

KEVIN BRADY

Growing promise: members of Sunderland's Fulwell Junior School's winning team

The atmosphere at Imperial College, London, fizzed with noisy enthusiasm as hundreds of keen young naturalists, the unmistakable leonine head of Professor David Bellamy in their midst, jostled for a word or an autograph from their hero before the event began. Youngsters aged three to 18 had gathered from all over Britain — representing the nine winning schools — to receive praise and prizes from the British Naturalists Association (BNA) for their group natural history projects.

Fulwell Junior School in Sunderland won the Ward Cup for under-11s for its school garden, designed as a nature reserve in the heart of a built-up area. "We've got a pond with common newts, frogs, toads and a colony of palmate newts, which are very rare," says Matthew New, 11, who wants to be a doctor. "It's great to watch the frogspawn because every time you look it's another stage further on."

"Don't forget the planarians, the cyclops and the water shrimps," chorus Craig Buttlestone, 10, and Helen Gill, eight. The children also nurture saplings, for later planting out elsewhere, in their tree nursery and sponsor a whooper swan and a nene goose at their local wildlife park. And with the help of their teacher, Godfrey Irving, who runs the Wildlife Club at Fulwell, they produce *Green Magazine*, which is supported by organisations such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. It was this — and immaculate presentation of their discoveries and observations — that won them the cup.

"Natural history is cross-curricular," says Mr Irving. "You can reach the whole of the national curriculum in our school garden, with the possible exception of PE."

The Blake Shield, awarded to a secondary group, was won by the Mary Erskine, an Edinburgh independent girls' school founded in 1694. Each spring more than a hundred 14- to 15-year-old girls, with a similar number of boys from Stewart's Melville College, spend two weeks in a castle converted into a Youth Hostel in Carbisdale, north of Inverness. The Environmental Studies project, which this year some of them undertook in the snow, is part of a more general outdoor education programme.

'You must make things happen in the future'

Working in 20 small groups last May, pupils did structured nature walks and recorded their observations of primroses, Douglas fir trees, mosses and lichen. The BNA judges felt that collecting such data plays an important part in environmental conservation by contributing to an accurate information base.

Joan Houston, head of biology and science at the Mary Erskine School, says: "The Carbisdale experience is really valuable because it teaches them to work together and gives them an idea of what working outside is like. We have a very widespread and enthusiastic staff commitment, even from the non-scientists."

The association — Professor Bellamy is the president — was founded in 1905. This year it received more than 200 entries for the Ward Cup and the Blake Shield from all corners of Britain. Sponsors such as RMC Group, the John Spedan Lewis Foundation, Penguin Children's Books and Pavilion Books enable organiser June Pearton to assign a generous prize pack to every child in each of the nine winning or commended teams. Books and resources are also presented to their schools.

Professor Bellamy addressed his young audience with passion: "There's a green renaissance. I've just come back from the Black Sea that was nearly dead but now is reviving. Wildlife is returning to the Danube delta, too. Some 20,000 acres of Wetlands are being restored near the River Severn.

"Nature will do the trick as long as we give it the chance. But I'm probably the oldest person in this room. It is you who will have to make things happen in the future."

Perhaps the most moving moment came when Roger Tabor, television presenter, author and world expert on everything feline from tigers to tabbies, was speaking in his capacity as chairman of the award ceremony. He drew a long-eared bat on a blackboard. Before he could finish a tiny voice — gleefully shrilled "It's a bat."

"Yes," said Mr Tabor "and in any other company it would have been mistaken for something to do with Hallowe'en. Now I know I'm among naturalists."

The David Bellamy of the next generation was somewhere in that audience.

● *For information about next year's awards contact: BNA, 48 Russell Way, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire NN10 8EJ.*

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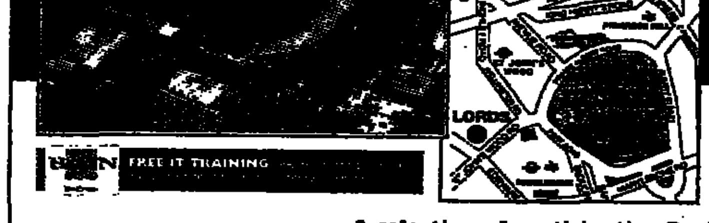

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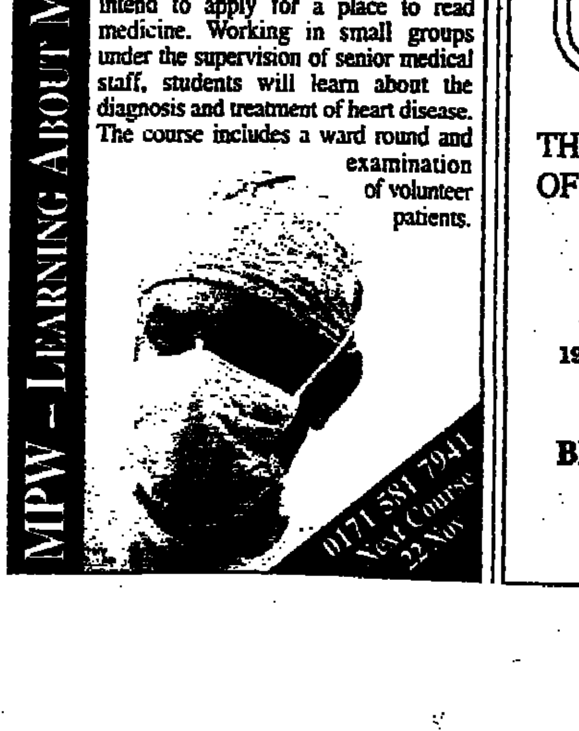

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Rattling skeletons in new case management

Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Skeleton arguments and case management)

A panel of supervising lord justices has been appointed to maintain oversight of groups of appeals involving them in specific case management. In addition, presiding lord justices in the Court of Appeal are to take steps to ensure skeleton arguments are lodged in time.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Brooke so stated in a practice direction handed down on November 5.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS stated:

Introduction

This practice direction dealt with two separate matters: the continuing problem of late skeleton arguments and the establishment of a new case management system in the Court of Appeal, Civil Division.

The court had been concerned for some time about the number of cases where skeleton arguments were lodged late. A recent analysis revealed that, in spite of clear directions from the court that the time limits were intended to be adhered to, they were still in the unsatisfactory position that just over 30 per cent of skeleton arguments were lodged after the due date without any extension of time having been sought. Quite often the skeleton arguments were not lodged until the Civil Appeals Office staff had chased for them.

Presiding lord justices, with the assistance of their clerks, would be taking steps to ensure that skeleton arguments were lodged timeously, and, with the exception of cases assigned to the Short Warned List, in future, requests for extensions of time for lodging skeleton arguments would normally be dealt with by a presiding lord justice personally.

After consultation with the members of the court, his Lordship had invited a small team of lord justices, to be known as supervising lord justice, to maintain oversight of groups of appeals.

That would involve them in specific case management as well as keeping abreast of developments in their areas of litigation. They would welcome general information from the professional bodies and specialist associations about difficulties or initiatives of which the Court of Appeal should be aware.

The membership of the team would change from time to time. The names of the current supervising lord justices and their areas of responsibility were set out below.

Directions

Skeleton arguments

1 With effect from November 10, 1997 paragraphs 49 and 50 of *Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Procedure)* ([1995] 1 WLR 1191; [1995] 3 All ER 850) cease to have effect and the provisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 below would be substituted:

2(1) With the exception of cases assigned to the Short Warned List, applications for extensions of time for lodging skeleton arguments would normally be dealt with by the presiding lord justice of the court in which the case was due to be heard.

(2) Applications for extensions of time should be made well before the date on which the skeleton argument was due to be lodged, save in cases where exceptional circumstances had made that impossible.

(3) Applications for extensions of *time had to be made by the* advocate personally, not by his or her clerk, or instructing solicitor. Such applications should be made by letter or fax setting out the reasons why the prescribed timetable could not be complied with *and what further time was* required.

As advocates would not usually know, when making the application, to which court the case has been assigned, the letter or fax should simply be addressed to "The Presiding Lord Justice". Such letters should be lodged with or posted to the Civil Appeals Progress Office (Room E307, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL); the fax number was 0171-936 6810. The Progress Office would then pass the letter or fax to the relevant presiding lord justice.

(4) Only in exceptional circumstances would applications by telephone be entertained. If such a case arose the advocate concerned should initially telephone the *Progress Office Manager* (0171-936 6096) explaining why it was not possible to make the application by letter or fax and the matter would then be referred to the presiding lord justice.

(5) The court expects the time *limits to be strictly adhered to and* extensions of time would only be granted if the presiding lord justice was satisfied that there were good reasons for doing so.

3 In the case of appeals and applications assigned to the Short Warned List, applications for extensions of time for lodging skeleton arguments would normally be dealt with by the Registrar of Civil Appeals and the letter or fax should therefore be addressed to him.

Requests for cases to be removed from the Short Warned List and given a fixture would not automati*cally dispense advocates from the* obligation to lodge skeleton argu*ments within the time limit speci*fied in the Short Warned List letter.

In some instances, before deciding whether the case should be taken out of the Short Warned List, the Registrar would need to see the skeleton arguments in order to assist him to determine whether the case was one which satisfied the test for being given a fixture or second fixture. Where skeleton arguments were required for that purpose, the Civil Appeals Listing Office would inform the advocates concerned.

Case Management

4 Supervising lord justices would give directions concerning the progress and future conduct of appeals of their own motion wherever they thought fit, and most requests from parties for expedition or for other directions to *be given would be referred to the* relevant supervising lord justice.

5 So far as possible, directions would be given on paper, in the interests of saving costs. In those cases where a hearing was necessary, it would be conducted *before the supervising lord justice* in chambers, unless otherwise directed, *and therefore both solic*itors and counsel would have a right of audience. It would rarely be necessary for more than one counsel, or, where counsel had not been briefed, for more than one solicitor, to attend on behalf of any *particular party*.

6 Directions hearings would not be allowed to develop into satellite litigation. They were intended to be a speedy and informal means of arriving at practical solutions to unresolved problems relating to the preparation for and future conduct of the appeal. Attempts at "*point scoring*" *would not be* tolerated.

The supervising lord justice would have read in advance the judgment under appeal, the notice of appeal and any respondent's notice, together with any correspondence or other documents which raised or defined the issues *to be decided at the directions* hearing.

*Advocates should therefore pro*ceed straightaway to make their points about those issues briefly and without any opening or preamble. The costs of such directions hearings would be in the discretion of the court in the usual way.

Although a shorthand note of the hearing would be taken, a detailed or lengthy judgment would not normally be given.

7 To ensure that all requests for directions were centrally monitored and correctly allocated, all requests for directions or rulings, whether relating to listing or any other matters, should be made to the Civil Appeals Listing Office. Those seeking directions or rulings *must* not approach the supervising lord justice either directly, or via his *or her clerk*.

8 Where leave to appeal had been granted by a single lord justice, he or she might well give directions at that stage concerning the future progress and conduct of the appeal.

9 If directions were requested or needed close to the hearing date, the matter would normally be referred to the presiding lord justice of the court in which the appeal was due to be heard. *He or she would then make the necessary directions as a single lord justice or* refer the matter to the full court.

10 The management of the list would continue to be dealt with by the listing officer under the oversight of the Registrar. Subject to any direction given in any individ*ual case by the full court or by a* lord justice, the Registrar and deputy registrar would continue to exercise their powers to give directions: see Order 59, rules 9(3) and (4) and 14(1A).

11 The current supervising lord *justices were:*

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Thorpe: Family appeals.

Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Morritt: Appeals from the Chancery Division.

Lord Justice Pill: Appeals from the Lands Tribunal and cases involving issues relating to planning, highways, footpaths or the Countryside Act 1968.

Lord Justice Aldous: Patent appeals.

Lord Justice Schiemann: Public law appeals (including appeals from the Immigration Appeals Tribunal) and cases involving points of European Community law.

Lord Justice Brooke: Appeals from the county courts, other than family cases.

Lord Justice Judge: Appeals from the Queen's Bench Division.

Lord Justice Waller: Appeals from the Commercial Court.

Lord Justice Mummery: Appeals from tribunals (other than *the Immigration Appeals Tribunal* and the Lands Tribunal).

12 As *this system was new* and experimental, any suggestions for improvement would always be welcome. Any suggestions or comments should be made in writing addressed to the Master of the Rolls.

Body seeking legal aid

Regina v Chester and North Wales Legal Aid Area Office, Ex parte Floods of Queensbury Ltd

Before Mr Justice Popplewell

[Judgment October 16]

A body could be said to be acting in a fiduciary capacity, and therefore entitled to be granted legal aid, only where the fiduciary relation*ship went beyond* a simple contractual obligation, and the body could *properly* be described as a *trustee*.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division in a reserved judgment when dismissing an application by Floods of Queensbury Ltd for judicial review of the decisions of the Chester and North Wales Legal Aid Office of June 1997 and September 1997 to *refuse their application for* legal aid.

Section 2 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 provides: "(10) In this Act 'person' does not include a body of persons corporate or unincorporate which is not concerned in a representative, fiduciary or official capacity so as to authorise advice, assistance or representation to be granted to such a body."

Mr Robert Jay for the applicant; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Michael *Fordham for the Legal* Aid Office; Mr Colin Reese, QC and Miss Chantal-Aimee Doerries for the defendant companies.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that the applicants were a limited company which had applied for legal aid in an official referee action they had brought against some other companies. They had assigned the benefit of any sum recovered through the action to Mr Flood, a director of the applicant.

The question was whether the *assignment meant that the ap*plicants were acting in a fiduciary capacity, thereby coming within the description of bodies entitled to be granted legal aid under section 2(10) of the 1988 Act.

In his Lordship's judgment, the object of section 2(10) was to limit the circumstances in which a *company could be granted legal* aid. It should only cover those cases where it could properly be said that there was a fiduciary relationship between the parties, and where such a duty was owed over and beyond a simple contractual obligation.

In the instant case, the assign*ment created no obligation outside* the express contractual terms, and was a simple commercial arrangement. The words of section 2(10) encompassed someone who could properly be described as a trustee and not someone whose position was artificially created by the nature of the assignment.

The courts should be *slow to* sanction an exercise which was no more than a device between two parties for their personal commercial benefit and not conducted at arms' length.

Solicitors: Winward Fearon & Co; Legal Aid Board, Head Office; Morrison Skirrow.

Judge must decide clash of medical opinion

Sewell v Electrolux Ltd

Before Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment October 8]

A judge hearing a claim for damages for personal injury from an accident at work where the sole *issue turned on conflicting expert* medical opinion, had to address and resolve that conflict. He could not decide the case without making findings of fact or giving proper reasons but by relying on the burden of proof.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, *Mr Peter Sewell, from the judg*ment of Mr Recorder J. P. N. Hallam given in Middlesbrough County Court on July 8, 1996, in which he had held that a work*place accident in 1990 was not the* cause of the plaintiff's back injury.

The court ordered the retrial of the plaintiff's action against his employer, Electrolux Ltd.

Mr Ian Ashford-Thom for the plaintiff; Mr Mark Grenyer for Electrolux.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON said that liability had been admitted by Electrolux and the only *issue was damages. At the centre of* the case lay an important conflict of medical opinion between the medical experts called by the *parties* as to whether or not the accident had caused the serious lumbar back trouble from which it was common ground that the plaintiff suffered.

Electrolux's case was that the plaintiff's disability was un*connected with the accident* and had its origins in a degenerative condition pre-dating the accident.

There was a clear cut and irreconcilable difference of opinion between the two consultant orthopaedic surgeons which it had been *for the recorder to resolve. But the* plaintiff submitted that the recorder had never grappled with that matter abdicating his responsibility by simply stating that the *plaintiff had not on the issue of* causation, discharged the onus of proof.

The recorder had failed, Mr Ashford-Thom said, properly to define the issues, to make any appropriate findings of fact, had *given no proper reasons for his* conclusion and had wrongly resorted to falling back on the burden of proof.

On the evidence before the recorder it had been plainly open to him to accept or reject the plaintiff's case.

However, there were some issues which needed to be resolved before that crucial question could be decided. The recorder in his judgment had not satisfactorily resolved the issue or made any clear findings of fact. He had mentioned but had not attempted *to resolve the difference of medical* opinion. He had then stated and had reiterated that the onus of proof was on the plaintiff.

Nowhere had the most important conflict of medical evidence been assessed or sought to be resolved by the recorder. One was left with the distinct im*pression that he had abdicated the* duty to state his findings and, feeling unable to resolve the medical conflicts, had resorted to the primary burden of proof as a means of deciding the case.

That was not a legitimate approach in such cases which required the recorder to address and resolve the central issues and such of the subsidiary issues as it was necessary to resolve to decide the central issue.

In the circumstances the plaintiff did not obtain a decision of his case such as he was entitled to and a *new trial before a different judge* should be ordered.

Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Rowley Ashworth, Leeds; Jacksons, Middlesbrough.

Providing pharmaceuticals in a supermarket

Regina v Maldon District Council, Ex parte Pattani

Before Mr Justice Collins

[Judgment October 16]

Providing pharmaceutical products either on prescription or for *ordinary sale was a form of the* retail sale of goods and where planning permission was given for the building of a supermarket, that was capable of including facilities for a pharmacist providing such services.

Mr Justice Collins so held in the Queen's Bench Division when *refusing the application of Mr* Ashok Pattani for judicial review by way of certiorari to quash the decision of Maldon District Council not to take require Tesco to close a pharmacy that had begun to operate in one of their supermarkets.

The applicant was operating a *pharmacy in Maldon when Tesco* built their out of town store nearby pursuant to planning permission for a supermarket. They then made it possible for another of Maldon's pharmacies to relocate to a site within the supermarket.

The applicant complained to Tesco and later to the local authority that pharmaceutical sales were not within the meaning of retail sales under Part A of the *Schedule to the Town and Country* Planning (Use Classes) Order (SI *1987 No 764) so that there had been* a change of land use contrary to planning permission for the Tesco site.

Part A of the Schedule to the 1987 Order provides:

"Class A1: Shops: Use for all or any of the following purposes — (a) for the retail sale of goods other than hot food..."

Mr Robin Barratt, QC and Mr *Clive Lewis for the applicant;* Mr Timothy Corner for the local *authority; Mr Duncan Ouseley*, QC and Miss Jane Oldham for Tesco.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said *that many supermarkets now con*tained pharmacies. The pharmacy did not prevent the whole still properly being described as a supermarket.

Permission to develop the site as a supermarket carried with it permission to trade, in the building, in anything which could ordinarily and properly be re*garded as obtainable in a super*market whose primary function was to sell food.

Mr Barratt had argued that permission to operate a supermarket denoted a permission to sell goods by retail. The operation of a pharmacy was not, he submitted, to sell by retail.

So far as private prescriptions were concerned that seemed to his *Lordship to be wrong. The need to* have a prescription from a doctor to enable the drug to be obtained did not prevent the transaction between the patient and the pharmacist being an ordinary sale.

In the case of prescriptions under the National Health Service the position was different but the *pharmacist was, in truth making a* supply in circumstances corresponding to a retail sale and in his Lordship's judgment any change of use could not be described as material.

Solicitors: Wollastons, Chelmsford; Mr Jeremy Baker, Maldon; Berwin Leighton.

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For written particulars, please contact the Personnel Office, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, EH14 4AS, tel: 0131 451 3475 (24-hours) quoting Ref: 179/97/T. Applications, consisting of detailed CV, names of three referees and a letter explaining your suitability for this appointment, should be submitted to the Personnel Office by 12 December 1997.

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Details about the Colleges and the individual posts may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP (tel: 0191 374 3140, fax: 0191 374 7253 or e-mail: Snr.Recruit@durham.ac.uk).

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Application forms may be obtained (written requests only, stamped addressed envelope required) from: The Tutorial Secretary, Clare Hall, Cambridge CB3 9AL, UK.

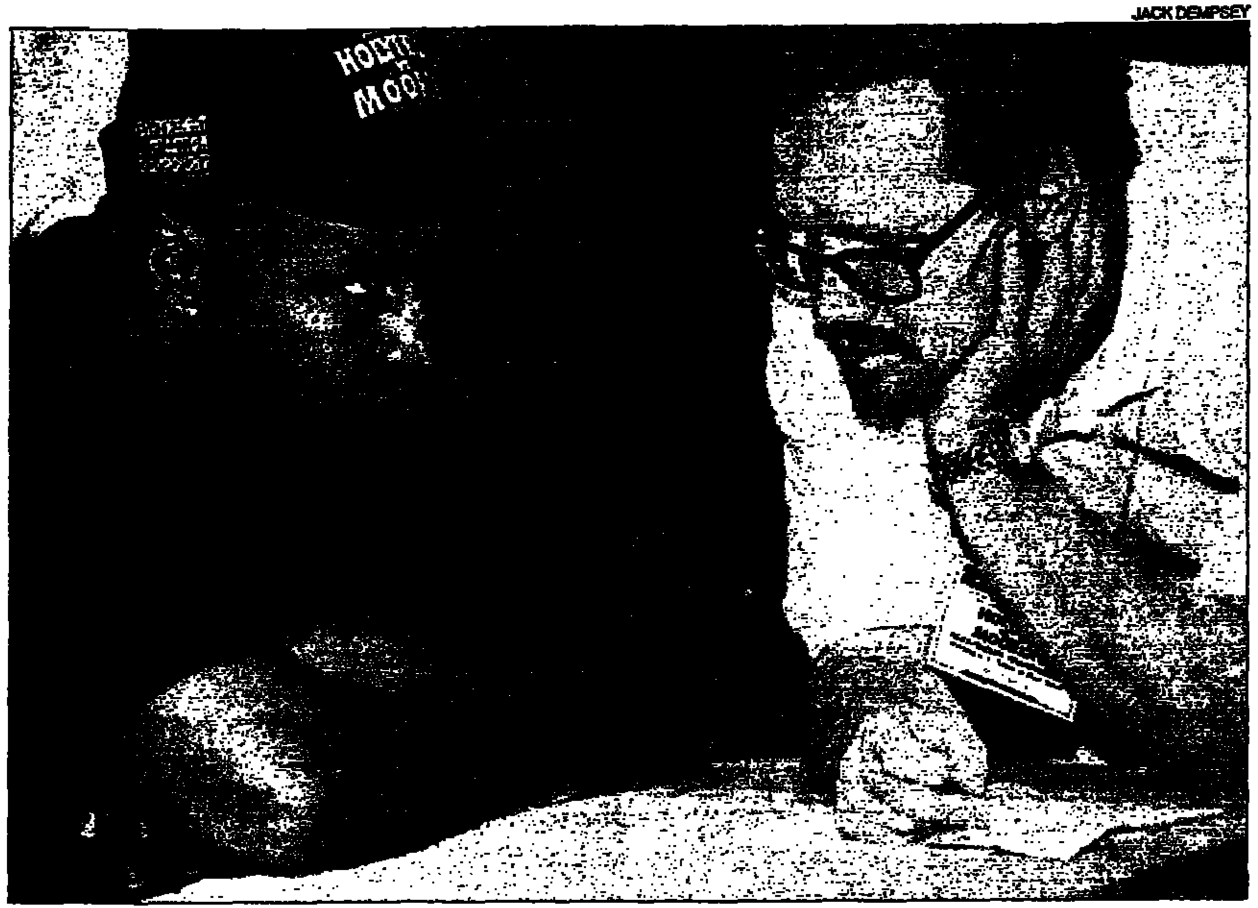
Candidates will be asked on their applications to state whether, in the event of their not being elected to the stipendiary fellowship, they would be willing to accept a non-stipendiary fellowship; before elections to such a fellowship, candidates would need to demonstrate to the Committee that they will have financial support from other sources.

هكذا من الاصل

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, listens to the master motivator

Roach gives Moorer the freedom to fight

JACK DEMPSEY



Balance of power: Moorer, left, has been allowed to dictate many of his own strategies to his trainer, Roach

MICHAEL MOORER is a two-time world champion, and has the distinction of being one of only two heavyweights to have beaten Evander Holyfield, the man who humiliated Mike Tyson twice. Yet Moorer, who holds the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title, remains largely unfulfilled as a champion.

Just as Holyfield was once considered too small to be taken seriously as a heavyweight, the 6ft 2in former cruiserweight from Detroit is not seen as a champion who will one day be worthy of a place alongside the greats of the division. No wonder, then, that he is remembered not so much for his achievements as for the knockout he suffered at the hands of George Foreman, the 46-year-old grandfather from the era of true heavyweights.

All that will change here in Las Vegas tomorrow, according to Moorer's new trainer, Freddie Roach. Boxing people will see Moorer in a better light, Roach said, after he has knocked out Holyfield in three rounds. Roach's claim left the experts reeling. Was he talking about the man who had struggled against Vaughn Bean, known in the trade as "Never Been", in his last fight? The man Teddy Atlas, one of the leading trainers in the world, laboured to motivate for three years, then gave up in despair four months ago?

Roach, who has had seven world champions in his care, including Steve Collins, of Ireland, believes that Atlas had not understood Moorer, and had been unable to get the best out of him. Atlas was too dominant a personality. He should have allowed a complex and introspective character like Moorer, who finds it difficult to elaborate on topics, and mumbles in monosyllables in the best traditions of the Marlon Brando school of acting, to be himself.

Moorer said: "Freddie allows me to be me. That's what it boils down to . . . to be me. I'm allowed to do whatever I want to do. If I like fighting one day, I'm going to fight. If I feel like boxing one day, I box. If I feel like knocking somebody out, I knock him out."

Roach said that by giving Moorer concessions that Atlas had refused him, he has been able to revive the old competitiveness of his light-heavyweight days in the Kronk gym in Detroit.

"Michael responds to respect," Roach said. "I was surprised when he came to my gym and asked if he could knock his sparring partners out. 'Teddy wouldn't let me,' he said. I said: 'Sure, if you want to knock sparring partners out, go ahead.' They get paid well enough. He's been through nine sparring partners."

Roach then said that Moorer asked him if he could have music in the gym. That too had been stopped by Atlas. "I said he could have music, but not during sparring, and he accepted it. Michael had also not been allowed to have his entourage in the gym, and I agreed to let them in."

Finally, Roach even agreed to let Moorer run at night instead of the morning. Atlas, being a disciplinarian who taught Tyson to box, had refused to let Moorer sleep late, something the boxer likes to do. Roach said that there seemed little point in objecting when Moorer pointed out that since he would be boxing at night, it made sense for him to run at night as well.

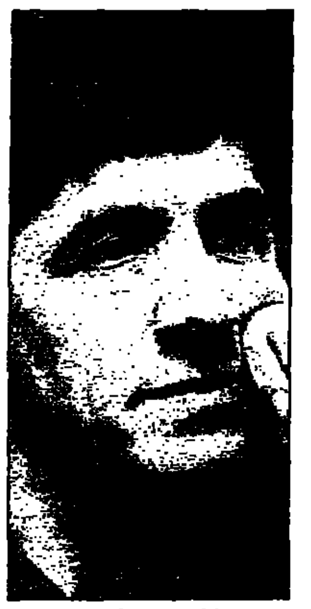
The trainer laughed at the desperate measures employed by Atlas to motivate Moorer. Had Atlas acceded to Moorer's simple requests, he would not have had to sit on his stool at the end of a round late in the bout with Holyfield, and tell the surprised boxer that if he did not want to fight, he would finish the job for him. That incident received wide publicity, and rankled with Moorer.

Roach said: "You can't do that to a fighter who demands respect. That was the greatest story ever told. The commentators were going crazy, listening to Teddy. But it achieved nothing because Michael went out and did the same as he had been doing all the time." Roach quickly realised that Moorer needed to rediscover his love for fighting. By allowing him to engage in hard fights with his sparring partners, before an appreciative entourage, he managed to put fire back into his boxing.

Roach's evaluation of Moorer appears to have been a correct one. Training has gone well. Moorer came in at 255lb, and after eight weeks of training at his pace, he was down to 223lb. Yesterday he announced that he was ready for Holyfield. "I'm a fighter again," he said.

RUGBY LEAGUE: GREAT BRITAIN MUST BE WARY OF ILL-DISCIPLINE IN SECOND INTERNATIONAL

Daley says Australia will relish rough stuff



Hughes: dismissed by note

By Christopher Irvine

A MORE uncompromising Great Britain peformance in the second British Gas international at Old Trafford tomorrow could play into opposition hands, especially if aggression spills over into ill discipline, Laurie Daley, the Australia captain, said yesterday.

Daley acknowledged that the Britain side was stronger than that beaten 38-14 at Wembley, but said that Australia would not take a backwards step. "If they want to get into that style of play, it will suit us down to the ground," he said. "Our guys will be focused on wrapping up the series and playing good football. We'll leave the other stuff to them."

Ryan Girdler, who kicked five goals for Australia at Wembley, failed a fitness test on a knee ligament injury, so Darren Lockyer will assume the place-kicking role, which he has done successfully for Brisbane this season. Brett Mullins moves into the centre and Ken Nagas, his Canberra colleague, is promoted to the right wing, with a first call for Russell Richardson, the talented young Cronulla centre, on the bench.

Just hours after the appointment of John Monie as his successor at Wigan, Eric Hughes learnt of his dismissal as coach after nine months in a note left on his car after he returned from holiday on Wednesday night. When he asked for a reason at a meeting with the club's board yesterday, Hughes was told that it was because of the club's change of management.

Hughes, who had 14 months of his contract left, said: "It came as a bolt from the blue. I don't want a legal battle and I hope that they pay up my contract. When members of the old board started to leave, I thought my job might be in jeopardy, but when we won the Premiership and reached the world club championship quarter-finals, I was satisfied with the progress."

A settlement will be reached with Hughes within seven days, according to Mike Nolan, the new Wigan chairman, who said that the club would strive for the best. He said that Monie, who enjoyed unparalleled success at Wigan from 1989-93, was the best coach available. Monie, who left Wigan for Auckland and has re-signed on a one-year contract with a 12-month option, said: "It would have been difficult to come back under the old board because when I left I was accused of being the devil and stealing players. I'm confident the club is in the right hands now. There are a lot of good players here and it's my job to push the club back up the mountain."

Hughes, who was dismissed by St Helens last year, said that he hoped to stay in the game.

AUSTRALIA: D Lockyer (Brisbane); K Nagas (Canberra), A Ettingshausen (Cronulla), B Mullins (Canberra), W Sailor (Brisbane); L Daley (Canberra, captain), C Gower (Penrith); J Stevens (Cronulla), S Walters (North Queensland), B Thorn (Brisbane), M Adamson (Penrith), G Tallis (Brisbane), D Smith (Brisbane). Substitutes: R Kearns (Melbourne), R Richardson (Cronulla), C Greenhill (Cronulla), B Kimmorley (Hunter).

HOCKEY

Giles fires England to series success

Egypt	3
England	6

From Sydney Friskin in Cairo

HAT-TRICKS by Calum Giles and Belal Ibrahim, the Egypt centre forward, were the highlights of a goal spree which ended yesterday with England taking a 3-0 lead in the five-match international series here.

A number of simple chances were missed by both sides, especially the Egyptians, who could have reduced the gap in the last five minutes. In the second half, they made 12 excursions into the circle, compared with six by England.

Egypt had taken a surprising 2-1 lead within 11 minutes. Garcia converted a penalty stroke in the fourth minute, but Egypt retaliated with two goals by Ibrahim, from open play and a short corner.

Equality was restored in the nineteenth minute when Sharpe scored with an angled shot after a combined raid on the Egypt goal. Giles then advanced from the bench to strike England's second short corner, but cloaked his intentions skilfully by working the ball to Garcia, who put England 3-2 ahead.

A minute before half-time, Egypt's outside left, Mohamed Samir, steered the ball wide of an open goal. Almost on half-time, Giles, now permanently in attack, converted England's sixth short corner. So, Egypt, having missed a glorious chance to get back into the match, were 2-4 down.

In the first minute of the second half, Mason made a diving save at a short corner as Egypt took up the running. England, too, were soon into their stride, and Giles, receiving a pass from Hall, scored with a soft shot. Egypt immediately changed their goalkeeper.

Giles completed his hat-trick in the 58th minute, with a superb conversion of a short corner for a 6-2 lead. But Egypt started a spirited fightback. Waugh brought the house down in the last minute by crashing into the goal in a vain attempt to prevent Ibrahim from completing his hat-trick.

Today is a rest day. There will be matches tomorrow and Sunday.

EGYPT: Hatem Gamal; Hassam Hassan, Abdel Khalek (captain), Mohamed Yaser, Yaser Monen, Emad Amin, Mohamed Sayed, Ahmed Said, Belal Ibrahim, Ahmed Hamouda, Mohamed Samir. Substitutes used: Adnam Syed, Syed Musa, Mohamed el Melah.

ENGLAND: S Mason; A Humphrey, J Halls, J Wyatt, B Barnes, D Woods, J Pocock, R Garcia (captain), B Sharpe, R Crutchley, C Mayer. Substitutes used: C Giles, D Hall, Manpreet Kochar, W Waugh.

Umpires: Tarek Mostafa (Egypt) and A Hoyes (England).

CRICKET

Klusener crushes weakened Sri Lanka

LANCE KLUSENER made a rapid half-century, then took six wickets as South Africa beat an under-strength Sri Lanka side by 66 runs in the last league match of the four-team tournament in Lahore yesterday.

Both sides had already qualified for the final tomorrow, so Sri Lanka rested their destructive opening batsman, Jayasuriya, and the bowlers, Vaas and Muralitharan.

South Africa, who lost the toss, took full advantage, reaching 311 for nine off 50 overs to post their highest limited-overs total against Sri Lanka. Kirsten, the opening batsman, made 50, and Klusener (54) and the captain, Cronje (50), also contributed half-centuries.

Sri Lanka made a dreadful start in reply, at one stage slipping to 72 for six as Klusener ripped through the batting. His career-best haul of six for 49 included Atapattu, Mahanama, Ranatunga, the captain, for a duck, and the dangerous Aravinda de Silva, who was caught cheaply at square leg by Symcox.

The Sri Lankans, trying to avoid what only their second defeat in their last 15 one-day matches, fought back late in the innings with Dharmasena and the wicketkeeper, Lanka de Silva, putting on 93 runs in 99 balls for the seventh wicket.

But the run rate grew too high and the pair had to be content with setting personal best one-day scores, Dharmasena finishing on 69 not out and de Silva 57. Sri Lanka reached 245 for nine from their 50 overs.

SOUTH AFRICA

A C Hudson c L K L de Silva b Liyanage	10
G Kirsten c Arnold b P A de Silva	50
L Klusener c Atapattu b Dharmasena	54
D J Cullinan c Liyanage b Chandana	36
*W J Cronje c Chandana b P A de Silva	50
J N Rhodes c and b Dharmasena	24
S M Pollock c Arnold b Dharmasena	37
†D J Richardson c Ranatunga b S C de Silva	5
P L Symcox not out	22
P S de Villiers b S C de Silva	6
P R Adams not out	0
Extras (b 5, lb 2, w 7, nb 3)	17
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	311

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-90, 3-154, 4-165, 5-200, 6-272, 7-274, 8-299, 9-308.

BOWLING: Liyanage 9-0-57-1; S C de Silva 9-1-51-2; Dharmasena 10-0-46-3; Chandana 10-0-65-1, P A de Silva 8-0-61-2; Arnold 4-0-24-0.

SRI LANKA

M S Atapattu c Pollock b Klusener	25
R P Arnold c Richardson b Pollock	11
R S Mahanama lbw b Klusener	9
P A de Silva c Symcox b Klusener	6
H P Tillekaratne run out	9
*A Ranatunga lbw b Klusener	0
†S K L de Silva lbw b De Villiers	57
H D P K Dharmasena not out	69
U U Chandana c Rhodes b Klusener	2
D K Liyanage c and b Klusener	22
S C de Silva not out	5
Extras (lb 9, w 17, nb 4)	30
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	245

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-46, 3-55, 4-61, 5-62, 6-72, 7-165, 8-172, 9-227.

BOWLING: Pollock 10-0-37-1; De Villiers 9-2-38-1; Klusener 10-0-49-6; Adams 6-0-35-0; Symcox 4-0-25-0; Cronje 10-0-49-0; Hudson 1-0-3-0.

Man of the match: L Klusener

Umpires: Mian Aslam and Nazir Junior (both Pakistan).

Final positions

	P	W	L	T	Pts
South Africa	3	3	0	0	6
Sri Lanka	3	2	1	0	4
Pakistan	3	1	2	0	2
West Indies	3	0	3	0	0

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

In the Refresher last week, I discussed what opener needs to make a game try in a new suit (a "Trial Bid") after his suit has been raised. This week I will look at what responder needs to accept partner's try. The idea is to accept when maximum and reject when minimum, but it is not just the total points held but where they are placed.

First, if you are maximum you should always accept the game try unless you have a very bad holding in the trial suit, say three or four small.

Second, if you are medium or minimum for your initial raise, it depends on how your cards fit with the opener's. Remember, partner should make a game try if he can see that two cards totalling six points would make game a good proposition. It follows, then, that when you have two such cards you should accept the try. For example, with:

♠K65 ♥742 ♦9643 ♣K54

you should bid Four Spades over a start of 1♠ — 2♠ — 3♣, even though you hold a bare minimum raise.

You should also bid game with a shortage in partner's second suit and sufficient trumps to be able to ruff any losers. The shorter your holding and the longer your trumps, the less you need in high cards to accept the try. Thus if you have four trumps and a singleton in the second suit, all you need is a side ace or king to raise to game. But if you have three trumps and a doubleton in the second suit, you need both an ace and a king in high cards. And there are clearly intermediate types between these two extremes.

Look at the following hands and decide which should bid game after 1♠ — 2♠ — 3♣:

(1) ♠Q764 ♥J642 ♦1083 ♣A2
(2) ♠Q1082 ♥K964 ♦10853 ♣6
(3) ♠Q84 ♥10863 ♦A8642 ♣7
(4) ♠Q84 ♥J6 ♦KQ1082 ♣764
(5) ♠Q742 ♥Q94 ♦Q742 ♣106
(6) ♠Q84 ♥10942 ♦K753 ♣Q6

According to the guidelines set out above, you should accept on (1), (2) and (3) but reject on (4), (5) and (6). Next week we will look at responder's game tries after opener has raised his suit.

☐ *The Times Book of Bridge 1*, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BIBLICALS

DEMETRIUS
a. A silversmith
b. A gladiator
c. A publican and sinner

ZERUBBABEL
a. The builder of Babel
b. Leader of exiles
c. A minor prophet

AGABUS
a. A prophet
b. A procurator
c. A converted slave

SIHON
a. Blood money
b. Zion
c. King of the Amorites

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Top scorer

Although disappointing overall, there were some highlights to the performance of the British Chess Federation team in the world team championship at Lucerne in Switzerland, which concluded earlier this week. The weak links in the chain were grandmasters Julian Hodgson and John Nunn, the BCF reserves, who between them succeeded only in scoring 1½ points from five games. For any team to perform well in such an event, it is usually essential that the lower boards notch up a high score.

On the other hand, the British Chess Federation's top four players, Nigel Short, Michael Adams, Matthew Sadler and Jon Speelman collectively made an excellent score. Matthew Sadler, the co-British champion, distinguished himself by winning five games, drawing two and losing two. He thus played in every single round and made an overall score of plus three, the highest of any BCF player. Here is one of his wins.

White: Vera
Black: Sadler

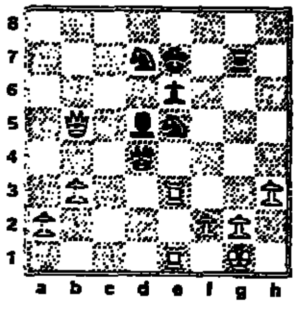
World team championship
Lucerne 1997

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	e3	Nf6
4	Bxc4	e6
5	Nf3	c5
6	0-0	a6
7	Bb3	cxd4
8	exd4	Nc6
9	Nc3	Be7
10	Bf4	0-0
11	Rc1	Na5
12	Bc2	b5
13	Ne4	Nd5
14	Bg5	Bxg5
15	Nexg5	Nf6
16	Qd3	g6
17	Ne5	Bb7
18	Rcd1	Bd5
19	Qh3	Kg7
20	Rd3	Rc8
21	Bb1	Bc4
22	Rg3	Qxd4
23	Nexf7	Rxf7
24	Nxh7	Nxh7
25	Bxg6	Nf6
26	Bd3+	Kf8
27	Qh8+	Ke7
28	Qxc8	Bxd3
29	Re1	Nd7
30	Rge3	Bc4
31	b3	Bd5
32	Qxa6	Nc6
33	Qxb5	Nce5
34	h3	Rg7

White resigns

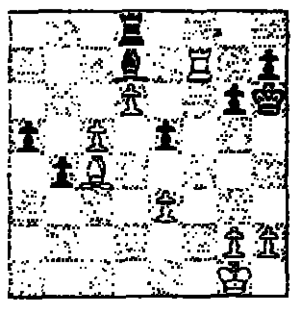
Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Rabinowitsch — Malakov, Tallinn 1997.

White has two strong passed pawns in this endgame, but must also keep an eye on Black's pawns on the queenside. How did he now achieve this?

Solution on page 50

SPORT IN BRIEF

Brebant plays on despite dismissal

ICE HOCKEY: Rick Brebant was dismissed as coach of the Newcastle Cobras yesterday — but he still played for them in the second leg of the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final against Cardiff Devils last night (Norman de Mesquita writes). Brebant's departure followed the Cobras' failure to win a Superleague game this season.

An early season programme of five away games was not kind to the Cobras and Brebant, who had retired as a player, made a comeback in response to mounting injury problems. His playing registration will be retained by the club and Chris Norton, who has been Brebant's assistant, has been put in temporary charge of team affairs.

White wipes out Gray

SNOOKER: Jimmy White, the favourite, took only 55 minutes to defeat David Gray 5-0 in the last 16 of the Benson and Hedges championship at Malvern yesterday. White outscored Gray 427-95, with runs of 48, 75, 36, 40, 38 and 100 — his third century of the tournament. "That's the type of top snooker I'm hoping to play all season," White said. In the quarter-finals, White will meet Andy Hicks, who defeated Graeme Dott 5-1. White has not won a tournament since the European League in 1993. Jon Birch compiled a break of 115 during his 5-3 win over Tony Knowles.

Floodlight foursome

CRICKET: Warwickshire are to play four of their nine Axa Life League matches under floodlights at Edgbaston next summer, those against Lancashire, Glamorgan, Essex and Hampshire. Warwickshire pioneered floodlit cricket last season when a crowd of 15,000 watched their Axa Life League match with Somerset. The county are considering plans for permanent lighting as well as a new pavilion and a new stand in a £25 million project to raise the ground capacity to 25,000.

Rhodes fights for title

BOXING: Ryan Rhodes will join the British assault on World Boxing Organisation (WBO) titles next month. Rhodes will meet Otis Grant, of Canada, for the vacant middleweight title in his home town of Sheffield on December 13. Rhodes, who relinquished the British light-middleweight crown to move up a division, said: "Grant is a sharp type of boxer, but not a big puncher, more of a wearing-down kind of fighter. I feel I am ready for him."

Eton claim record

RACKETS: Eton, the holders, won the Noel Bruce Cup for a record eighteenth time on Wednesday at Queen's Club when Willie Boone and Alex Smith-Bingham beat the Wellington College pairing of Toby Sawrey-Cookson and Tim Cockroft 4-3 in an absorbing final lasting nearly three hours. It was Boone's thirteenth win, also a record, for the event which is contested by the old boys of independent schools.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

FREE cinema tickets to see *Welcome to Sarajevo*

Cert 15

See page 49 of **metro** free with *The Times* tomorrow

CHANGING TIMES

RACING

Fractured leg rules Singspiel out of Breeders' Cup

FROM CHRIS McGRATH AT HOLLYWOOD PARK

SINGSPIEL, conqueror of so many foreign fields, was yesterday fighting his bravest battle yet. He sustained a serious leg injury while preparing for the Breeders' Cup Turf at Hollywood Park tomorrow, and will require surgery on a fractured cannon-bone to be saved for stud. Singspiel's defining assets, of durability and versatility, will be coveted indeed, for he has left an aching void at the heart of a demoralised European team.

The five-year-old has narrowed the global sport's horizons over the past 12 months, with famous wins in the Dubai World Cup and Japan Cup taking him to a new European prize-money record. He certainly looked as marbled and magnificent as ever as he cantered out of the back stretch and disappeared into the mist yesterday morning. It was the last time anyone saw this wonderful athlete in such elegant motion.

Visibility was barely a hundred yards as Michael Stoute, his trainer, waited for his champion to complete the circuit. He seemed to have an unexpectedly long wait, and eventually marched off into the fog himself. As he did so, a chilling spectre emerged: the dim outline of Singspiel hobbling besides his dismounted work-rider, Kevin Bradshaw.

The travelling circus of Europeans — trainers, staff and press — watched dumbstruck as Singspiel was led back into his barn by an ashen-faced trainer. The horse was clearly very distressed, barely able to walk. Minutes later Anthony Stroud, racing manager to Sheikh Mohammed, emerged to confirm everyone's worst fears. This most valiant of equine soldiers was fighting for his life.

"Kevin said that he seemed to falter about ten yards short of the finishing line," Stroud explained. "Up until then he had travelled smoothly, just breezing four furlongs. It didn't seem very serious, and it was only when he pulled him up that he realised how bad it was. He was very lame on his right-fore, and has got progressively worse." Stroud added that the incident was "definitely unconnected" with the minor setback Singspiel had encountered earlier in the week.

After a team of vets stabilised the horse, X-rays were taken to determine whether he could be saved. A bleak silence prevailed as the sun filtered through the fog. Eventually Stroud reappeared.

"Singspiel has sustained a mildly displaced condylar fracture," he said. "It is anticipated that the injury will require surgery, probably tomorrow — the exact details depend on his progress. The prognosis for this type of injury is normally favourable, barring complications. You're looking at a recovery period of two to four months.

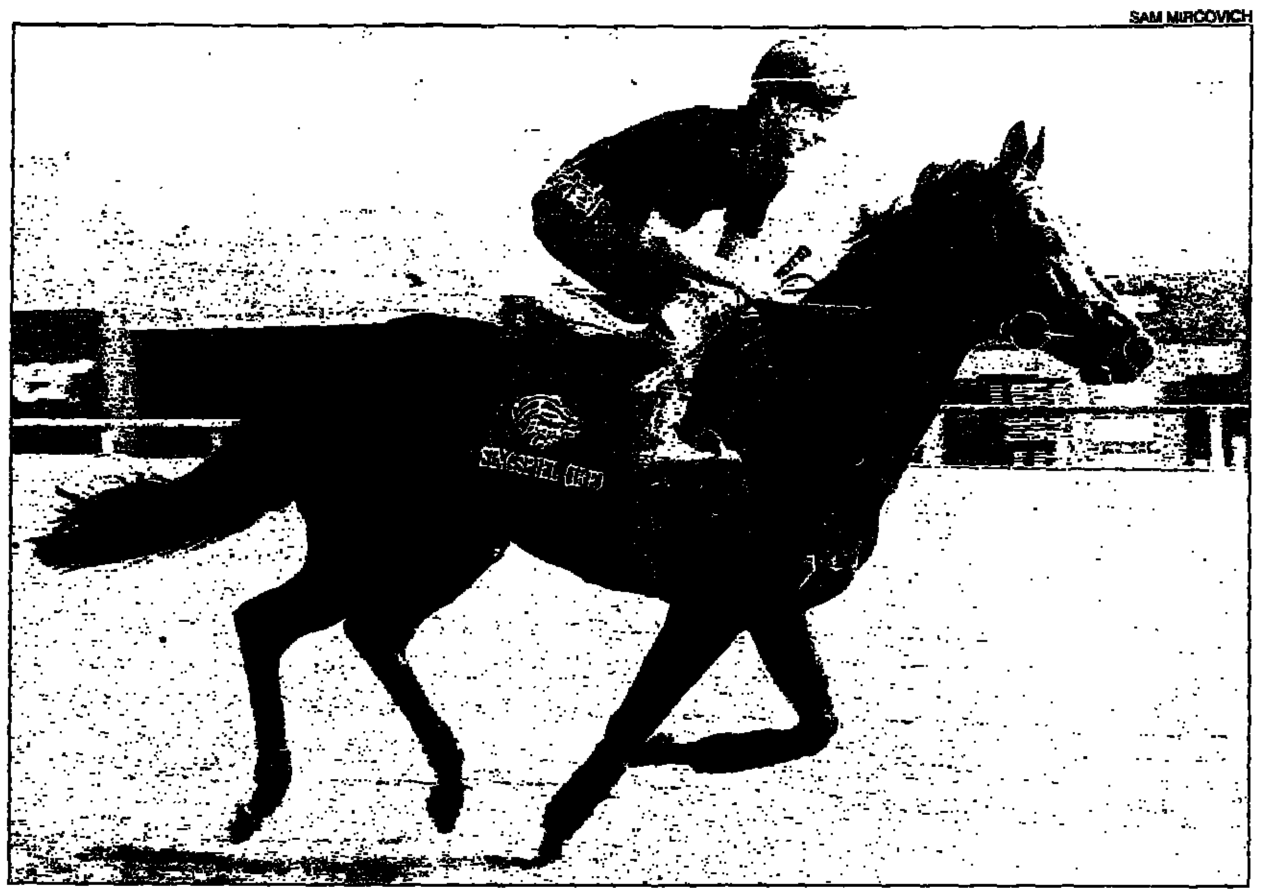
"It's very, very disappointing, for the horse, and everyone concerned with him — for his lad, for Kevin, Michael and Sheikh Mohammed, who kept him in training as a five-year-old, and missed the Dubai Champion Stakes to keep him fresh here.

"Singspiel has done us proud. He was tough, versatile and consistent. Dubai was definitely the pinnacle of his career. This would have been his last race, anyway, and obviously it is better that it happens now than on Saturday, when he would have been going a lot faster. I've spoken to the boss, and I can assure you there is no better man when things go wrong."

Stoute himself appeared later, saying: "It's less serious than a compressed fracture. They will have to put some screws in it, but he should be fine for stud. It's extremely disappointing, not just for me but for everyone involved with him — and for a lot of racing fans, too. But that's the racing game. Dubai was his crowning moment, taking on seasoned US horses on a surface more familiar to them.

"This is totally unrelated to what happened the other day — that was just a little bit of a pulse, and we know what caused that. You can't put in the mileage he has without being extremely sound."

Life goes on, however, as bookmakers proceeded to emphasise by opening a new book after the loss of their heavily backed favourite. Coral still favour a European success, through the German filly, Borgia, at 4-1, but the Tote are as short as 3-1 about the local hope, Chief Bearheart.


SAM MIRCOVICH

Singspiel will miss the Breeders' Cup after fracturing a cannon-bone while exercising at Hollywood Park yesterday

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ANGSTROM
(3.30 Doncaster)
Next best: Raining Stairs
(1.50 Hexham)

Opt-out by layers leaves £5m shortfall

BY RICHARD EVANS

RACING'S income from levy paid by off-course punters will fall by £5 million next year after the "big three" bookmakers — Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral — confirmed yesterday they are taking up an option to change the way the levy is calculated.

Levy will be charged on a shop-based scheme rather than on a percentage of each company's annual horse racing turnover, but the decision to take up the option — agreed under a five-year levy agreement reached in 1994 — comes as the "big three" are enjoying record profits and met with fierce criticism yesterday.

"While recognising that the big three are entitled to make the switch, everyone in racing will find it hard to accept that they have actually chosen to do so at a time of rising profitability for the off-course betting industry," Lord Wakeham, the British Horseracing Board chairman, said. "There is no doubt that this is a sad day for British racing."

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

1.20 Rubon Prince. 1.50 Anika's Gem. 2.20 Heavens Above. 2.50 High Penhowe. 3.20 Wild Brook. 3.50 House Of Dreams.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

1.20 BUCHANAN ALES MAIDEN CHASE
(£2,725: 3m 1f) (11 runners)

1	F-40	BABY JAKE 98 (S) J Howard Johnson 7-11-5	R Thornton (3)
2	4P6-	CLONROCHE LUCKY 228 J Wade 7-11-5	S Taylor (5)
3	633-	COMMITTED SCHEDULE 221 G Richards 6-11-5	A Dobbin
4	3RUF	COTTSTOWN BOY 6 S Bradburne 6-11-5	Mr M Bradburne (7)
5	U32-	FERN LEADER 177 (S) C Grant 7-11-5	P Carberry
6	403-	I'M THE MAN 370 Mrs E Slack 6-11-5	K Johnson
7	050-	LORD PAT 184 Miss M Milligan 6-11-5	D Parker
8	0P0-	ROYAL SPRUCE 221 G M Moore 6-11-5	N Bentley
9	40U	RUBON PRINCE 9 N Mason 6-11-5	T Reed
10	52-4	STRONGALONG 27 P Cheesbrough 7-11-5	A S Smith
11	F0-5	GAME POINT 13 D Lamb 8-11-0	J Burke

2-1 Fern Leader, 11-4 Committed Schedule, 11-2 Cottstown Boy, 13-2 others

1.50 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,532: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1	306-	BOLD ACTION 265 J Turner 6-10-12	R Supple
2	00/0	COOLTON HILL 38 J Wade 6-10-12	S Taylor (5)
3	00-2	*JUMBO'S DREAM 35 J Dixon 8-10-12*	*B Storey*
4	0-5	KATSAR 6 M Hammond 5-10-12	R Garritty
5	P	MONOTONY 23 C Grant 4-10-12	K Johnson
6	60U-	MY SHENANDOAH 251 J Howard Johnson 6-10-12	A S Smith
7	4-6B	RAINING STAIRS 27 G Richards 6-10-12	A Dobbin
8	FPP-	*SHOW YOUR HAND 291 (D,F,G,S) L Lungo 9-10-12*	W Dowling (7)
9	00-	TEELIN BAY 322 C Parker 5-10-12	D Parker
10	3-44	ANIKA'S GEM 6 (V) Mrs S Bradburne 4-10-7	T J Murphy
11	0	BUSHMILLS 48 F Murtagh 4-10-7	C McCormack (7)
12	00-0	*GAUTBY HENPECKED 13 G M Moore 4-10-7*	*N Bentley*

11-8 Raining Stairs, 11-2 Katsar, Bold Action, Jumbo's Dream, 8-1 others

2.20 KEOGHANS ALE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,976: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1	24-F	BALLYLINE 27 (G,S) W Kemp 6-11-10	R McGrath
2	540-	JUKE BOX BILLY 195 (D,F,G) Mrs J Brown 9-11-0	E Callaghan
3	-563	*SPRING LOADED 24 (C,F) D Nolan 6-10-13*	*P Midgley*
4	1525	REBEL KING 43 (D,F,G) M Barnes 7-10-10	S Taylor
5	245-	NAWTINOOKEY 197 M Todhunter 7-10-10	C McCormack (5)
6	3504	BIT OF A DREAM 4 (G) Mrs S Smith 7-10-9	R Wilkinson (3)
7	13-3	HEAVENS ABOVE 17 (BF,D,F) F Murphy 5-10-0	R Thornton

9-4 Heavens Above, 4-1 Rebel King, 5-1 Ballyline, Nawtinookey, 6-1 others.

2.50 FEDERATION BREWERY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,725: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1	3214	*NONIOS 13 (C,F) G M Moore 6-11-10*	*N Hannity (7)*
2	P-13	STRATHMORE LODGE 33 (D,F,G) Ms L Plater 8-11-8	D Bentley
3	00-2	HIGH PENHOWE 8 (F) K Hogg 9-10-13	M Foster
4	/FP-	COPPERHURST 391 (D,S) W Kemp 6-10-10	C McCormack (7)
5	6F6-	ALLERBY 167 J Goulding 9-10-9	B Grattan (5)
6	4-04	*THARSIS 8 (D,F,G,S) W Smith 12-10-0*	*S Taylor (5)*
7	C0-5	TOPUP 44 M Barnes 4-10-0	B Storey
8	000-	BOYZONTOOWA 241 W Storey 5-10-0	M Moloney
9	8P-6	BASINCROFT 23 Miss S Williamson 7-10-0	J Supple
10	6330	MEADOWLECK 20 W Young 8-10-0	A Dowling (7)
11	0PP-	*OUSEFLEET BOY 412 Miss M Milligan 5-10-0*	*D Thomas (7)*
12	PU-P	REGAL JEST 24 B Murray 7-10-0	W Dwan

2-1 High Penhowe, 11-4 Strathmore Lodge, 3-1 Nonios, Tharsis, 10-1 others.

3.20 FEDERATION BREWERY MEDALLION LAGER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,772: 2m 110yd) (12)

1	-625	HOLDERS HILL 27 (D,S) M Meagher 5-11-10	R Thornton (3)
2	3U41	*PAPARAZZO 27 (CD,G) G M Moore 6-11-10*	A S Smith
3	3232	WELL APPOINTED 13 (D,F,G) B Mactaggart 8-11-4	B Storey
4	/023	XAIPETE 13 (F) N Mason 5-11-3	R Guest
5	424-	SUNNY LEITH 245 P Monteith 6-11-1	A Dobbin
6	-3SP	WILD BROOK 63 (BF) B Ellison 7-11-0	D Parker
7	00P-	*THE NEXT WALTZ 164 (BF) L Lungo 8-10-11*	*R Supple*
8	-042	APPEARANCE MONEY 88 (D,G) F Murphy 6-10-11	P Carberry
9	450-	MULLINS 332 D Moffatt 6-10-7	D J Moffatt
10	60-2	ARISTODEMUS 27 Mrs L Marshall 8-10-5	K Johnson
11	R66/	BROADWATER BOY 1026 M Hammond 9-10-5	R Garritty
12	0/00	HYA PRIM 23 N Chamberlain 8-10-0	W Dwan

4-1 Paparazzo, 11-2 Wild Brook, Appearance Money, Well Appointed, 8-1 others

3.50 LCL PILS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,138: 2m) (11)

1	61U	HOUSE OF DREAMS 22F (G) G M Moore 5-12-0	N Bentley
2	P/F-	CANNY CHRONICLE 29F (D,G,S) P Monteith 9-11-6	I Jardine (7)
3	4321	HIGHLAND WAY 6 (CD,F,G) M Todhunter 9-11-5	C McCormack (7)
4	-F33	KERNOF 23 (D,F) M Hammond 4-11-5	R Garritty
5	2FF-	AMAZING SAIL 167 (BF,F) Miss M Milligan 4-11-4	D Bentley
6	0/24	KEY GRIP 17 (BF) Mrs S Smith 6-10-8	R Guest
7	22-5	KIERCHEM 154 (BF,D,G,S) C Grant 6-10-8	P Carberry
8	610-	APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 226 (CD,F,G) J Goulding 9-10-4	B Grattan (5)
9	500-	ONYOUROWN 228 H Johnson 4-10-2	A S Smith
10	00F-	*ON THE OFF CHANCE 245 R McKellar 5-10-0*	D Parker
11	5450	RUBISLAW 20 (V) Mrs F Lamb 5-10-0	Miss S Lamb (7)

3-1 Key Grip, 4-1 Kernof, 9-2 Highland Way, 11-2 Kierchem, 13-2 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Richards, 21 winners from 72 runners, 29.2%; L Lungo, 22 from 84, 26.2%; G M Moore, 18 from 74, 24.3%; P Monteith, 10 from 48, 20.8%; B Ellison, 7 from 35, 20.0%

JOCKEYS: N Bentley, 13 winners from 46 rides, 28.3%; P Carberry, 9 from 33, 27.3%; A Dobbin, 26 from 109, 23.9%; B Grattan, 3 from 15, 20.0%; E Callaghan, 4 from 22, 18.2%; T Reed, 18 from 103, 17.5%

☐ Dorans Pride beat Imperial Call by nine lengths in the Morris Oil Chase at Clonmel yesterday. Ladbrokes and William Hill left Dorans Pride unchanged at 6-1 favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, while Imperial Call was cut from 16-1 to 10-1 by Ladbrokes and 16-1 to 12-1 by William Hill.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
DONCASTER 101 201
UTTOXETER 102 202
HEXHAM 103 203
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

1.10 Chilled. 1.40 Monaco Gold. 2.10 Little Gains. 2.40 Qualitair Pride. 3.10 Smolensk. 3.40 Prussia. 4.10 Ballindoo.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.10 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,565: 2m 6f 110yd) (8 runners)

1	SPP-	ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT 247 F Lloyd 7-11-5	S McNeill	–
2	0/	ALTHREY CAPTAIN 714 F Lloyd 7-11-5	S Wynne	–
3	2/4-	*CHILLED 354 Mrs J Pitman 5-11-5*	*R Farrant*	86
4	0F5-	DAN DE MAN 234 Miss L Siddall 6-11-5	A Thornton	87
5	0/F-	KALADROSS 359 W Jenks 6-11-5	T Jenks	–
6	10/P	LAUNCHSELECT 8 (B,S) J Mackie 6-11-5	T Eley	–
7	0-	MY FRIEND BILLY 181 T Bill 5-11-5	J Culloty	–
8	S	*ROYAL BARGE 15 P Bowen 7-11-5*	W Marston	94

6-4 Chilled, 9-4 Royal Barge, 3-1 Kaladross, 8-1 Launchselect, 14-1 Dan De Man, 25-1 Althrey Captain, My Friend Billy, 33-1 Althrey Aristocrat.

1.40 INTERNATIONAL COMBUSTION NOVICES SELLING HURDLE
(£1,942: 2m 4f 110yd) (16)

1	-21P	MONACO GOLD 24 (BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-5	P Niven	94
2	040/	BOLD AMBITION 578 T Kersey 10-10-12	L Harvey	–
3	430-	EWAR BOLD 169 K Wingrove 4-10-12	J Ryan	93
4		IRISH SEA 315F B Llewellyn 4-10-12	G Tormey	–
5	3321	*KARICLEIGH BOY 29 (F,G,S) R Frost 9-10-12*	J Frost	93
6	B40/	LILILO 457F R Lee 5-10-12	G Hogan (3)	–
7	/3-0	MY MICKY 15 C Popham 6-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	–
8	4205	PRINCELY AFFAIR 13 (B) J Bradley 4-10-12	B Fenton	91
9	U-PP	RACING HAWK 36 P Bowen 5-10-12	R Johnson	–
10	-F43	*ROYAL HAND 11 (V) R Armson 7-10-12*	Mr R Armson	87
11	542	THOMAS CROWN 30 M R Bosley 5-10-12	I Lawrence	100
12	050-	TIP YOUR WAITRESS 194 B Curley 4-10-12	L Aspell (3)	–
13	0/5/	CRIME CRACKER 750 Miss S Wilton 6-10-7	N Williamson	–
14	3334	ESKIMO KISS 24 (D,S) J Mackie 4-10-7	E Husband (3)	97
15	0	*QUALITAIR BEAUTY 13 Miss L Siddall 4-10-7*	*A Thornton*	–
16	P-	STORMHILL HARPIE 340 J Batchelor 6-10-7	S Fox	–

5-2 Monaco Gold, 9-2 Karicleigh Boy, 6-1 Eskimo Kiss, 8-1 Royal Hand, Thomas Crown, Tip Your Waitress, 10-1 Princely Affair, 12-1 others.

2.10 ROYAL MAIL MIDLANDS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,964: 2m 5f) (8)

1	1352	GLAMANGLITZ 9 (CD,F,G) P Dalton 7-12-0	A P McCoy	120
2	/0-P	FRENCH BUCK 21 (B,G) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-0	C Llewellyn	–
3	24-6	CURRAGH PETER 23 Mrs P Bickerton 10-10-7	L Harvey	100
4	1F1F	*SAXON MEAD 14 (BF,F) P Hobbs 7-10-7*	*R Dunwoody*	106
5	331-	WOT NO GIN 165 (CD,F) A J Wilson 8-10-5	N Williamson	97
6	432-	LITTLE GAINS 165 R Lee 8-10-4	A Maguire	117
7	R225	CAN'T SAY 29 J Bradley 5-10-0	B Fenton	104
8	F364	TOTAL ASSET 17 A Forbes 7-10-0	Gary Lyons	99

9-4 Saxon Mead, 7-2 Glamanglitz, 9-2 Little Gains, 11-2 Wot No Gin, 8-1 French Buck, 10-1 Can't Say, 14-1 Total Asset, 20-1 Curragh Peter

2.40 FLINT BISHOP & BARNETT CONDITIONALS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,449: 2m) (11)

1	-316	*CLAIRE'S DANCER 22 (D,F) A Turnell 4-12-0*	*C Rae*	113
2	0-23	SOLDIER MAK 8 J Mackie 4-11-6	E Husband	109
3	53-2	QUALITAIR PRIDE 17 J Hetherton 5-11-6	L Aspell	96
4	4322	MR MONTAGUE 24 (BF) T Donnelly 5-11-5	G Hogan	104
5	4423	SUMMER VILLA 20 (BF) K Wingrove 5-10-10	J Power	108
6	5PP1	*DISTANT STORM 16 (B,G) B Llewellyn 4-10-8*	*X Aizpuru*	115
7	-P22	MOONLIGHT ESCAPADE 8 (F) R Hodges 6-10-8	T Dascombe	100
8	3312	REAL FIRE 28 (BF,D,F) M Meagher 3-10-7	F Leahy	116
9	00-1	OAKBURY 13 (G) Miss L Siddall 5-10-4	T Siddall (3)	114
10	P0-P	SOPHIES DREAM 13 J Bradley 6-10-0	R Massey	–
11	000-	UN POCO LOCO 255 Mrs J Brown 5-10-0	G Lee	–

9-2 Moonlight Escapade, 5-1 Mr Montague, Real Fire, 6-1 Qualitair Pride, 7-1 Claire's Dancer, 8-1 Soldier Mak, Summer Villa, Oakbury, 10-1 others.

3.10 UNDERGEAR TERRA TIRE NOVICES CHASE
(£4,143: 2m) (6)

1	00P-	JEMARO 202 W Jenks 6-10-12	T Jenks	–
2	4435	JUST FOR A REASON 21 (D,G) R Juckes 5-10-12	Gary Lyons	–
3	4-	LISTEN TIMMY 220 S Brookshaw 8-10-12	S Wynne	–
4	U2-4	*PRIMITIVE STREAK 29 (BF) R Hodges 6-10-12*	T Dascombe	–
5	P13-	SMOLENSK 167 (BF,D,F) J Berry 5-10-12	R Dunwoody	–
6	346-	TEJANO GOLD 174 (D,G,S) P Bradley 7-10-12	R Johnson	–

6-4 Tejano Gold, 2-1 Smolensk, 4-1 Listen Timmy, 7-1 Primitive Streak, 16-1 Just For A Reason, 20-1 Jemaro

3.40 IBM GLOBAL SERVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,801: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1	0-4F	PRUSSIA 55 (D,F) W Clay 6-11-10	A P McCoy	114
2	/1P-	*MY MAN IN DUNDALK 280 (S) B Curley 8-11-7*	L Aspell (3)	87
3	-454	PINGO HILL 7 (D,G,S) J Mackie 5-11-5	E Husband (3)	103
4	1225	FRONTIER FLIGHT 55 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 7-11-3	S Wynne	112
5	U30-	MERILENA 253 (F) G Hubbard 7-11-1	A Maguire	–
6	-312	SWEET NOBLE 6 (D,F,S) K Drewry 8-10-0	Mr S Durack (7)	105

5-2 Sweet Noble, 7-2 My Man In Dundalk, 4-1 Prussia, 5-1 Merilena, 6-1 Frontier Flight, 8-1 Pingo Hill

4.10 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,327: 3m 110yd) (15)

1	23-2	SAN GIORGIO 17 (BF,D,F,S) N Twiston-Davies 8-12-0	T Jenks	86
2	P0P-	HOODWINKER 253 (G) W Jenks 8-12-0	C Llewellyn	–
3	640-	PETTAUGH 335 (D,F,S) G Hubbard 9-11-7	R Elkins (7)	78
4	3152	BALLINDOO 8 (D,F,G) R Armson 8-11-4	Mr R Armson	107
5	2-02	DON'T TELL TOM 15 H Haynes 7-11-1	A Maguire	111
6	233U	BLATANT OUTBURST 7 (V,BF,F,G) Miss S Wilton 7-11-1	A P McCoy	110
7	2213	ON MY TOES 33 (BF,F,G) R Frost 6-11-0	J Frost	105
8	0P6-	*JADIDH 280 (F,G,S) P Rackham 9-10-9*	D Salter (5)	97
9	82F1	SWEET CISEAUX 8 (B,G) P Bowen 4-10-9 (7ex)	P Niven	115
10	6PP-	SINGLESOLE 281 (D,F,G,S) Mrs P Sly 12-10-6	W Marston	–
11	504-	SILVRETTA 7F R Spicer 4-10-4	N Williamson	80
12	3315	SAUCY NUN 15 (F,G) P Hiatt 5-10-3	D Bridgwater	111
13	0F14	BERNERA 13 (F) J Mackie 5-10-1	E Husband (3)	99
14	503-	QUIET MOMENTS 220 P Murphy 4-10-0	R Farrant	103
15	2305	*NORTHERN OPTIMIST 9 (F,G) B Llewellyn 9-10-0*	Guy Lewis (3)	–

5-1 On My Toes, 6-1 Sweet Ciseaux, 7-1 San Giorgio, Blatant Outburst, 8-1 Ballindoo, Don't Tell Tom, Bernera, Quiet Moments, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Bowen, 4 winners from 15 runners, 26.7%; K Wingrove, 4 from 15, 26.7%; Mrs M Reveley, 7 from 31, 22.6%; S Brookshaw, 12 from 57, 21.1%; P Rackham, 3 from 15, 20.0%; N Twiston-Davies, 18 from 95, 18.9%

JOCKEYS: A McCoy, 25 winners from 91 rides, 27.5%; P Niven, 7 from 29, 24.1%; R Dunwoody, 38 from 167, 22.8%; A Maguire, 22 from 110, 20.0%; G Hogan, 3 from 17, 17.6%; N Williamson, 26 from 149, 17.4%

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 1.30 Seven.

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

12.30 High And Low
1.00 High-Rise
1.30 Prima Facie
2.00 Beauchamp Jade
2.30 HACHIYAH (nap)
3.00 Escudo
3.30 Angstrom
4.00 Southern Dominion

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 SUE ME.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.30 Lutine Bell. 1.00 Ethereal. 3.30 ANGSTROM (nap).

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.30 EBF COOPERATIVE BANK MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £3,494: 7f) (19 runners)

101	(15)	0	*ANEMOS 58 (A Michael) M Jarvis 9-0*	W Ryan	80
102	(10)		BILLIONAIRE (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 9-0	G Carter	–
103	(1)	0	BOLD LEGACY 14 (C Edginton) W Muir 9-0	Dane O'Neill	70
104	(18)	0	BOMB ALASKA 14 (Miss B Swire) G Balding 9-0	S Drowne	74
105	(3)	0	HIGH AND MIGHTY 22 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	G Hind	79
106	(8)		HOT SPOT (Queen Elizabeth) I Balding 9-0	Martin Dwyer	–
107	(6)		JAATI (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0	A Garth	–
108	(16)		LUTINE BELL (G Pritchard-Gordon) J Banks 9-0	J Stack	–
109	(13)		MASAMADAS (M Tilbrook) C Wall 9-0	S Sanders	–
110	(17)		*MUSALSE (Mrs C Barclay/Middleton Park Racing VIII) P Haslam 9-0*	*P Goode (7)*	–
111	(2)	23	PASS THE REST 10 (J Roundtree) J Eyre 9-0	T Williams	98
112	(7)	56	PIPED ABOARD 8 (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 9-0	K Darley	77
113	(12)	0	SCORNED 22 (G Strawbridge) I Balding 9-0	S Whitworth	70
114	(9)		TANKERSLEY (Walt Sylvester) A Hide 9-0	T Quinn	–
115	(19)	3000	CLARITY 49 (A Morton) A Jarvis 8-9	C Lowther (3)	85
116	(11)	0	GIRLIE SET 34 (G Shropshire) M Prescott 8-9	G Duffield	72
117	(14)		*HIGH AND LOW (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-9*	*D Holland*	–
118	(4)	0	NEEDWOOD SPITFIRE 11 (Needwood Racing Ltd) B Morgan 8-9	D Biggs	–
119	(5)		PUIWEE (J Hall) P Dalton 8-9	L Charnock	–

BETTING: 11-4 Billionaire, 7-2 High And Low, 11-2 Jaati, 7-1 High And Mighty, 8-1 Pass The Rest, 10-1 others.

1996: HANDSOME RIDGE 9-0 J Carroll (20-1) J Gosden 20 ran

FORM FOCUS Anemos 21l 10th to Tamarisk in 7f Kempton stakes (good). Billionaire, Distant Relative colt, out of winning stayer and hurdler Miss Plum. Bold Legacy 14l 9th to Zaya in 7f Doncaster maiden (good) Bomb Alaska 14l 15th to Mister Rambo in 6f Newbury maiden (good) *Hot Spot, Bustino gelding, out of an unraced mare.* Jaati, Alzao colt, half-brother to winning miler Majestic Guest. *Lutine Bell, Fairy King gelding, brother to useful Prince Babar. Pass The Rest 5¾l 3rd to Dernier Croise* in 7f Redcar stakes (good to firm) Piped Aboard 16l last of 6 to Late Night Out in 6f Nottingham stakes (good). Scorned 18l 16th to Border Arrow in 1m Newmarket maiden (good to soft) with High And Mighty (levels) 19l 17th. Girlie Set 14l last of 17 to Sky Rocket in 6f Nottingham maiden (good to firm) High And Low. Rainbow Quest filly, sister to useful stayer Corradini.

NO SELECTION

1.00 EBF COOPERATIVE BANK MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: 2-Y-O: £3,494: 7f) (18 runners)

201	(2)	6	AL-FATEH 21 (A Bahbahani) J Dunlop 9-0	K Darley	69
202	(11)	60	BEST QUEST 24 (Exors late H Allen) J Gosden 9-0	G Hind	82
203	(9)		*ELBARREE (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) M Jarvis 9-0*	*W Ryan*	–
204	(12)		ETHEREAL (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 9-0	G Carter	–
205	(3)	0	*FIELDS OF OMAGH 14 (P Mellon) I Balding 9-0*	*S Whitworth*	–
206	(6)	0	GOLDEN LYRIC 16 (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 9-0	G Milligan (5)	69
207	(10)		HIGH-RISE (Sheikh M al-Maktoum) L Cumani 9-0	R Ffrench (3)	–
208	(18)	34	NORTH OF THE BORDER 11 (R Aird) M Johnston 9-0	Dean McKeown	95
209	(7)	00	PINSHARP 14 (K Weston) P Howling 9-0	J Quinn	–
210	(8)		TEMERAIRE (K Abdulla) Mrs A Perrett 9-0	T Quinn	–
211	(13)		VOLONTIERS (The Commoners) P Harris 9-0	A Culhane	–
212	(5)		*CELEBRATION (The Queen) I Balding 8-9*	*Martin Dwyer*	–
213	(15)		JANET LINDUP (W Gredley) B Hills 8-9	D Holland	–
214	(16)	05	MAGIC SPRING 11 (Fieldspring Racing) K McAuliffe 8-9	J F Egan	82
215	(4)		MOLE CREEK (Lord Vestey) J Fanshawe 8-9	N Day	–
216	(14)		MYSTIC FLIGHT (Cliveden Stud) R Charlton 8-9	T Sprake	–
217	(1)		OLIVE THE TWIST (L Knight) J Gosden 8-9	A Garth	–
218	(17)	0	TREASURE ISLAND 31 (Lord Derby) M Prescott 8-9	G Duffield	–

BETTING: 5-1 Ethereal, 6-1 High-Rise, 7-1 North Ofthe Border, 8-1 Janet Lindup, Mystic Flight, 10-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS Al-Fateh 10l last of 6 to Lucayan Indian in 7f Newmarket stakes (good to soft). Elbarree, Green Desert gelding, out of the middle-distance winner Wafirnu. Ethereal, Fairy King colt, half-brother to 7f winner Hidden Oasis and miler Sekan. Fields Of Omagh 16l 19th to Mister Rambo in 6f Newbury maiden (good) Golden Lyric 24l 9th to Misbah in 7f Yarmouth maiden (good) High-Rise, High Estate colt, half-brother to several winners North Ofthe Border 8¾l 4th to Alidr in 7f Leicester *maiden (good) Temeraire, Dayjur colt, half-brother to the useful Keyboogie* Celebration, Selkirk filly, half-sister to winners abroad. Janet Lindup, Sabrehill filly, half-sister to several winners including the prolific hurdler Hopscotch Mole Creek, Unfuwain filly, closely related to several winners including the very useful Terimon Mystic Flight, Silver Hawk filly, half-sister to 7f winner Vanishing Trick. Olive The Twist, Theatrical filly, sister to the useful Acerna. Treasure Island 18l 10th to *Red Leggings in 7f Warwick maiden (good to firm)*

NO SELECTION

1.30 EBF GIBSON BOOTH MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,053: 6f) (21 runners)

301	(9)	60	AGANON 14 (Kingsdown Racing) M Channon 9-0	R Perham	90
302	(17)	0	ALBRIGHTON 18 (P Rawson) B Rothwell 9-0	M Fenton	63
303	(19)		BRIERY MEC (C Cole) H Collingridge 9-0	J Quinn	–
304	(16)	00	BROOKSIE 14 (Mrs Shirley Trotman) J Hills 9-0	M Henry (3)	–
305	(2)	0	CROFTERS EDGE 34 (Crofter's Edge) A Jarvis 9-0	C Lowther (3)	62
306	(3)	00	EMPIRE STATE 21 (Miss D Merson) M Tompkins 9-0	D Biggs	75
307	(12)		*FABRICE (Gestut Ittlingen Ltd) H Candy 9-0*	*N Adams*	–
308	(10)	03	MASHA-IL 30 (H al-Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0	R Hills	91
309	(13)	0	PIPE MUSIC 16 (Lord Scarsdale) P Haslam 9-0	L Charnock	65
310	(8)		RACHAELS NORTH (P Vela) R Armstrong 9-0	S Lanigan	–
311	(4)	0	REGAL ARROW 10 (Regal (Witney) Ltd) A Foster 9-0	T Sprake	–
312	(18)	00	SEVEN 34 (B) (Smart Set) B Smart 9-0	J Stack	72
313	(15)		SHAJI (H al-Maktoum) C Benstead 9-0	T Williams	–
314	(7)	00	*SHIPLEY GLEN 14 (Mrs L Burnet) M Prescott 9-0*	*C Nutter*	69
315	(5)	0	TAMBRAR 14 (J Ruggles & Mrs A Ruggles) D Haydn Jones 9-0	A Mackay	70
316	(1)		BOW BELLS (Mrs B Neave) C Wall 8-9	S Sanders	–
317	(14)		FIFTH EMERALD (M Ng) C Wall 8-9	A McGlone	–
318	(11)	36	LINDESBERG 11 (B Yeardley Continental Ltd) M Johnston 8-9	D Holland	90
319	(6)		PRIMA FACIE (Cheveley Park Stud) D Loder 8-9	J Fortune	–
320	(21)	04	SHANTUNG 11 (K & B Wetherell, Mrs Bailey) K McAuliffe 8-9	J F Egan	89
321	(20)	30	SPLENDID 16 (Cheveley Park Stud) M Prescott 8-9	G Duffield	82

BETTING: 5-2 Masha-Il, 7-2 Prima Facie, 8-1 Lindesberg, 10-1 Splendid, 12-1 Rachaels North, 14-1 others

1996: SOVIET STATE 9-0 J Reid (6-5 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 17 ran

FORM FOCUS Brooksie 15l 10th to Zaya in 7f Doncaster maiden (good). Empire State 11l 12th to Abif in 6f Newmarket maiden (good to soft). Fabrice, Pursuit Of Love gelding, half-brother to winning miler Altitude. Masha-Il 7½l 3rd to Mithnah in 6f York maiden (soft) Pipe Music 13l 8th to Love Academy *in 6f Newcastle maiden (good to firm) Shaji, Mukaddamah colt, half-brother to winning sprinters Al* Wujud and Kabil. Bow Bells, Absalom filly, half-sister to several winning sprinters Lindesberg 5¼l *6th to Solo Spirit in 6f Leicester maiden (good).* Prima Facie, Primo Dominie filly, half-sister to several winners including Splice and the useful miler Altupaicafe Shantung, 5¾l 4th to Madjamila in 7f Lingfield maiden (good). Splendid 17l 8th to Frond in 7f Newcastle maiden (good to firm).

NO SELECTION

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
R Armstrong	12	44	27.3	D Holland	12	65	18.5
H Cecil	25	106	23.6	C Lowther	4	22	18.2
G Wragg	12	53	22.6	R Hills	15	99	15.2
J Gosden	31	155	20.0	W Ryan	21	141	14.9
J Dunlop	30	154	19.5	T Sprake	6	43	14.0
B Hills	34	188	18.1	K Darley	35	269	13.0

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

2.00 CPL INDUSTRIES CONDITIONS STAKES
(£4,884: 1m 6f 132yd) (8 runners)

401	(4)	0050211	WAHIBA SANDS 11 (C,F,G,S) (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 4-9-5	K Darley	107
402	(6)	2/2-16	SACHO 48 (BF,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-3	G Hind	98
403	(1)	4322503	*SWEETNESS HERSELF 7 (C,G,S) (Mrs M Lavell) M Ryan 4-9-2*	*G Carter*	106
404	(3)	05	MOUNT GENIUS 158 (Mrs S Buckland And Mrs J Woods) Bob Jones 4-9-0	N Day	80
405	(2)	6-03552	BEAUCHAMP JADE 48 (C,F,G) (E Penser) H Candy 5-8-9	A McGlone	111
406	(5)	21	CARISBROOKE 46 (F) (M Poland) H Cecil 3-8-9	W Ryan	99+
407	(7)	1116401	STAR PRECISION 24 (G,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 3-8-6	S Drowne	114
408	(8)	4441220	ELBAAHA 40 (F) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) M Jarvis 3-8-4	S Sanders	111

BETTING: 5-2 Wahiba Sands, 7-2 Beauchamp Jade, 5-1 Carisbrooke, Sacho, 6-1 Star Precision, 8-1 others.

1996: PRUSSIAN BLUE 4-9-7 W Ryan (11-4 jt-fav) H Cecil 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Wahiba Sands beat Besiege 2l in 1½m Leicester stakes (good) Sacho 8¾l 6th to Ghataas in 1m3f Ayr listed stakes (good to soft). *Sweetness Herself 12l 3rd to Lady Of The Lake in 2m Newmarket* handicap (good to firm) Mount Genius 15l 5th to Barrier Ridge in 1m Thirsk maiden (firm). Beauchamp Jade 1¼l 2nd to Darapour in 1m5f Newbury handicap (good to firm) Carisbrooke beat Sabadilla 5l in 1½m Kempton maiden (good to firm). Star Precision beat Keyboogie 1½l in 1m Leicester stakes (good to soft) Elbaaha 15l 9th to Ridaiyma in 1½m Ascot handicap (good to firm)

ELBAAHA, unsuited by making the running last time, can return to form

2.30 RJB MINING LIONHEART FILLIES CONDITIONS STAKES
(£4,753: 1m 2f 60yd) (8 runners)

501	(1)	32-1140	BEA'S RUBY 4 (S) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) A Bailey 3-9-2	G Carter	96
502	(8)	2000000	ABSOLUTELYSTUNNING 37 (D,F) (J McDonnell) Mrs B Waring 4-8-12	E Byrne	65
503	(6)	-231250	*HACHIYAH 14 (D,S) (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 3-8-12*	*R Hills*	97
504	(4)	2200106	MCGILLYCUDDY REEKS 13 (D,F,G) (E Incisa) E Incisa 6-8-12	Kim Tinkler	97
505	(2)	2-00404	OOPS PETTIE 13 (CD,F) (Mrs D MacRae) Mrs J Cecil 4-8-12	Martin Dwyer	101
506	(3)	1002210	SWEET CONTRALTO 49 (F,S) (S Frisby) D Loder 3-8-12	J Fortune	102
507	(7)	3000025	UNCONDITIONAL LOVE 4 (F) (Mrs H Conroy) M Johnston 4-8-12	D Holland	97
508	(5)	0200334	VANISHING TRICK 15 (B,F) (Cliveden Stud) H Cecil 3-8-8	W Ryan	100

BETTING: 3-1 Oops Pettie, 7-2 Hachiyah, Unconditional Love, 5-1 Sweet Contralto, Vanishing Trick, 8-1 others

1996: RUSSIAN SNOWS 4-8-12 L Dettori (5-2 jt fav) S bin Suroor 9 ran

FORM FOCUS *Absolutelystunning 17l 10th to Absolute Utopia in 1¼m Salisbury* handicap (good) Hachiyah 4½l 7th to Conspicuous in 1¼m *Newbury handicap (good) Oops Pettie 2½l 4th to Al Azhar in* 1½m Doncaster handicap (good) with McGillycuddy Reeks (13lb worse off) 6½l 6th. Sweet Contralto 17l 7th to Capilano Princess in 1¼m Ayr fillies handicap (good to soft) Unconditional Love 9¼l 5th to Strazo in 1m Nottingham stakes (good) with Bea's Ruby (levels) 27l 9th Vanishing Trick 1¼l 4th to Secret Spring in 1m Brighton stakes (good to firm)

HACHIYAH has been running well in better company and can take this

3.00 AMCO CORPORATION NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £3,527: 5f) (13 runners)

601	(7)	0153212	*CLASSY CLEO 7 (D,F,G,S) (J Abbey) P Evans 9-10 (7ex)*	J F Egan	98
602	(2)	2250340	SMOOTH SAILING 13 (D,S) (A Parrish) K McAuliffe 9-7	J Fortune	96
603	(11)	12123	DIM OTS 74 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Hughes) B Palling 9-6	T Sprake	100
604	(3)	504112	RARE INDIGO 11 (D,S) (Mrs B Ansell) J Berry 9-5	C Lowther (3)	102
605	(8)	3140	ESCUDO 30 (D,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-1	G Hind	101
606	(5)	1241365	IVORY'S JOY 9 (D,F,G,S) (K Ivory) K Ivory 8-13	S Carson (7)	99
607	(4)	5320	COOL PROSPECT 10 (BF) (G Darley Racing Pnrs) A Mulholland 8-13	T Lucas	90
608	(12)	03322	CAROL SINGER 9 (Mr & Mrs G Middlebrook) M Johnston 8-10	D Holland	94
609	(13)	005160	LEGAL LARK 20 (F) (C Hammond) P Howling 8-6	J Quinn	88
610	(1)	0042	*RITA'S ROCK APE 34 (Mrs J Pearce) R Brotherton 8-6*	A Mackay	90
611	(6)	155000	SUIVEZ LA TRACE 14 (D,S) (C Bigley Pnrs Ltd) J J O'Neill 8-5	P Fessey (3)	98
612	(10)	050	GAME BIRD 17 (Mrs R Heathcote) J Spearing 8-4	S Drowne	88
613	(9)	4000	TOUCHANOVA 9 (Mrs J Mitchell) A Hide 8-0	J Lowe	85

BETTING: 4-1 Carol Singer, 9-2 Rare Indigo, 6-1 Dim Ots, 7-1 Classy Cleo, 8-1 Escudo, 10-1 others

1996: MYRMIDON 9-2 L Dettori (7-1) J Dunlop 13 ran

FORM FOCUS *Classy Cleo 1¼l 2nd to Happy Days Again in 5f Newmarket* nursery (good to firm) Dim Ots 1¾l 3rd to Eleventh Duke in 5f Chepstow nursery (good to soft) Rare Indigo ½l 2nd to Legs Be Frendly in 5f Lingfield stakes (good). Escudo 11l 9th to Special Treat in 6f York nursery (good). Cool Prospect 6¾l 8th to Mary Jane in 5f Redcar maiden auction stakes (good to firm) Rita's Rock Ape 1l 2nd of 14 to Kettlesing in 5f Nottingham nursery (good to firm)

CLASSY CLEO retains his form well and can beat Rare Indigo

3.30 DRANSFIELD NOVELTY COMPANY CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,428: 1m) (5 runners)

1	(3)	01	ANGSTROM 15 (D,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 9-1	T Quinn	90
2	(1)	01	DERRYQUIN 11 (G) (Lady Elland) R Charlton 9-1	T Sprake	89
3	(4)	04	LOVE KISS 14 (M Doyle) M Johnston 8-11	D Holland	79
4	(2)	4	STINGRAY 13 (M J Pilkington) M Johnston 8-11	Dean McKeown	85
5	(5)	126	SWING SISTER 13 (G) (Lady Bamford) P R Webber 8-8	Dane O'Neill	102

BETTING: 6-5 Angstrom, 2-1 Derryquin, 5-1 Love Kiss, 11-2 Swing Sister, 14-1 Stingray

1996: CATIENUS 9-1 K Darley (5-2) M Stoute 6 ran

FORM FOCUS *Angstrom beat Hadith 4l in 1m Brighton maiden (good to firm).* Derryquin beat Free Option neck in 7f Lingfield maiden (7f, good) Love Kiss 3¼l 4th to Zaya in 7f Doncaster maiden (good) Stingray 28l 4th to Distant Mirage in 1m Newbury stakes (good to soft). Swing Sister 12l 6th to Ffestiniog in 7f listed Newbury stakes (good to soft)

ANGSTROM won impressively on his debut and can outstay Derryquin

4.00 C I S W O HANDICAP (£4,240 5f) (22 runners)

1	(16)	0544000	KIRA 3 (C,D,F,G) (J Wilson) J Eyre 7-10-0	S Buckley (7)	96
2	(2)	6036005	JEFFREY ANOTHERRED 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs C Dods) M Dods 3-9-12	F Lynch	87
3	(10)	1121000	GORETSKI 21 (D,F,G,S) (P Savill) N Tinkler 4-9-11	L Charnock	90
4	(14)	5122020	BOWLERS BOY 16 (D,F,G,S) (Bowlers Racing) J J Quinn 4-9-10	S Drowne	86
5	(8)	1010004	JUST BOB 3 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (J Fotherby) S Kettlewell 8-9-9	A Culhane	89
6	(21)	6000400	PLEADING 20 (F,S) (W Musson) W Musson 4-9-6	M Wigham	93
7	(20)	6000300	*SWYNFORD DREAM 16 (D,F,G) (Qualitair Holdings Ltd) J Hetherton 4-9-2*	J Lowe	89
8	(1)	6066410	SWINO 17 (V,BF,D,F) (Swinnerton Transport Ltd) P Evans 3-9-2	J F Egan	88
9	(19)	1000301	SWAN AT WHALLEY 44 (CD,G,S) (Mrs C Barlow) R Fahey 5-9-2	R Winston (5)	90
10	(7)	6000105	PALO BLANCO 30 (CD,F,G,S) (A Reid) G L Moore 6-9-1	Candy Morris	92
11	(22)	2-00000	PRIDE OF BRIXTON 21 (D,G) (G Reed) C Thornton 4-9-0	Dean McKeown	87
12	(12)	5062362	BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 11 (V,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Hunt) D Chaw 7-9-0	C Teague (3)	90
13	(18)	0011203	MON BRUCE 16 (BF,D,F) (N Riddell) M Dods 3-8-11	J Carroll	84
14	(13)	1330001	MUNGO PARK 16 (D,F) (Mrs H Carr) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-10	J Fortune	98
15	(15)	0003160	SWEET MAGIC 30 (D,F,G,S) (C Hammond) P Howling 6-9-10	K Darley	97
16	(17)	4000521	*POLLY GOLIGHTLY 21 (B,CD,F,S) (D Sykes) M Blanshard 4-8-9*	Dale Gibson	96
17	(3)	0335002	SUE ME 16 (S) (T G Meynell) D Nicholls 5-8-4	A Nicholls (7)	102
18	(5)	5004280	CAPTAIN CARAT 50 (B,C,D,G) (PDQ Security) R Thompson 6-8-3	V Halliday	87
19	(4)	0340000	DIVIDE AND RULE 25 (D,F) (M Johnson) R Hollinshead 3-8-1	R Ffrench (3)	85
20	(11)	3100000	*TROPICAL BEACH 43 (D,F,G,S) (A Thompson) J Pearce 4-8-1*	*G Bardwell*	90
21	(9)	0025056	PALLIUM 21 (B,D,F,G) (Mrs J McFadyen-Murray) D Nolan 9-7-13	P Fessey (3)	83
22	(6)	0044214	SOUTHERN DOMINION 16 (B,D,F,S) (Mrs A Wilson) Miss J Craze 5-7-13	T Williams	85

BETTING: 7-1 Mon Bruce, 8-1 Swan At Whalley, Sue Me, 10-1 Broadstairs Beauty, Mungo Park, Polly Golightly, *Southern Dominion*, 12-1 others

1996: HIGH DOMAIN 5-8-12 J Weaver (20-1) J Spearing 22 ran

FORM FOCUS Kira 7¾l 15th to Primo Lara in 6f Redcar handicap (good). Jeffrey Anotherred 4½l 5th to Victory Team in 7f Newbury handicap (good). Bowlers Boy 7¼l 12th to Always Alight in 6f Newcastle handicap (good to firm). Just Bob 6¾l 4th to Ataan in 5f Redcar stakes (good) Swan At Whalley beat Caution neck in 5f Chester handicap (good) with Polly Golightly (1lb worse off) 1½l 5th and Swino (9lb better off) 1¼l 6th. Broadstairs Beauty ¾l 2nd to Midnight Shift in 6f Leicester *handicap (good) Mungo Park beat Sue Me (8lb better off) 3l in 5f Newcastle handicap (good to* firm) with Mon Bruce (10lb better off) 5l 3rd. Southern Dominion (10lb better off) 5l 4th and *Swynford Dream (11lb better off) 10l 14th*

JUST BOB, a course and distance winner, can hold Mungo Park

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Musselburgh

Going: good to soft

12.30 (1m) 1. **ANTARCTIC STORM** (R Winston, 11-2); 2. **Altahaal** (J Fortune, 3-1 fav); 3. **Scathebury** (L Charnock, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 6-1 Knobbleeneeze, 8 Kass Alhawa (4th), Thatched, 14 Forest Robin, Monaco, The Barnsley Belle (6th), 16 Running Green, 25 Denton Lad, Genuine John, Mazeed (5th), 66 Sir For Luck. 14 ran. Hd, 1½l, 1¾l, 1l, 1¼l. R Fahey at Malton. Tote £6.50; £1.50, £1.80, £3.10. DF £10.40. Trio £40.60. CSF £20.23. Tricast £157.95.

1.00 (1m 4f) 1. **DOC RYAN'S** (P McCabe 4-1); 2. **Slasher Jack** (R Winston, 6-1); 3. **Moonraking** (Dale Gibson, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 fav Back Row, 11 Proteras Say (5th), 6 Fighting Times (6th), 10 Lord Advocate, Kingdom Pearl (4th), 20 Macrangi, Raased, 33 Havana Heights. 11 ran. NR: Brocture Line, Miami Moon. ¾l, 2l, sh hd, 6l, 4l. M Ryan at Newmarket. Tote £3.90; £1.20, £2.80, £5.40. DF £18.00. Trio £207.40. CSF £26.35. Tricast £326.24.

1.30 (1m) 1. **TEN BOB** (D Biggs, 3-1); 2. **Wuo Venture** (N Day, 2-1 jt-fav); 3. **Kameez** (D McKeown, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 jt-fav Kilcullen (4th), 50 Announcing Peace (6th), 100 Torn (5th), Zepreps, 200 Captain Skeen. 8 ran. 1¾l, 4l, 5l, 9l, 1l. M Tompkins at Newmarket. Tote £4.70; £1.40, £1.10, £2.10. DF £6.10. CSF £8.35.

2.00 (5f) 1. **BARRELBIO** (K Darley, 8-1); 2. **Satis** (A Culhane, 10-1); 3. **Glenstal Lad** (F Lynch, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 jt-fav Esca (6th), 5 jt-fav I'm Tel (4th), 7 Glass River (5th), 14 Inshalleh, 20 Ngaere Princess, 50 Dibola. 9 ran. ¾l, 3l, 2l, 2l, nk. J J O'Neill at Penrith. Tote £10.90; £1.50, £2.20, £1.90. DF £35.90. CSF: £75.15. Tricast £1,742.36. Trio £127.20.

2.30 (2m) 1. **OUTSET** (J Carroll, 11-1); 2. **Here Comes Herbie** (J F Egan, 9-1); 3. **Nichol Fifty** (D Biggs, 6-1); 4. **The Butterwick Kid** (R Winston, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 fav Theme Arena, 6 All On, 7 Tarry (6th), 9 Children's Choice (5th), 10 Salska, 12 Selmeston, 20 Gold Desire, Northern Motto, Sea Victor, 25 Alpine Panther, Golden Hadeer, Philmist, 66 Shonara's Way. 17 ran. 2l, 2½l, sh hd, 4l, 2½l. M Hammond at Middleham. Tote £17.40; £3.90, £1.30, £2.70, £4.70. DF £53.70. Trio £206.80. CSF £100.01. Tricast £620.45.

3.00 (1m 4f) 1. **PUTERI WENTWORTH** (J Fortune, 9-2 jt-fav); 2. **Tycoon Tina** (J Bramhill, 5-1); 3. **Forzair** (C Lowther, 9-2 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 jt-fav Westminster, 5 Welcome Home, 7 Peep O Day (5th), 16 Jimjareer (6th), 20 Notation, 25 Gold Clipper, 33 Belzao (4th), Live Project, 50 Ticknume. 12 ran. NR: Anf. 6l, 6l, 1l, 3l, 1l. Miss G Kelleway at Whitcombe. Tote £6.80; £1.80, £3.10, £2.20. DF £24.30. Trio £36.50. CSF £24.04. Tricast £100.70.

3.30 (7f 30yd) 1. **GIFT OF GOLD** (A Mackay, 8-1); 2. **One To Go** (P Fessey, 33-1); 3. **Three Angels** (D Biggs, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Chocolate Box (4th), 3 Culcraggie (6th), 33 Minster Moorgate, 100 Abstone Pet Gift, Anika Lady (5th), Mac's Type. 9 ran. NR: Opening Night. 6l, 2l, 4l, 8l, sh hd. I Campbell at Newmarket. Tote £9.90; £1.40, £2.10, £1.20. DF £16.10. Trio £23.80. CSF £141.11.

4.00 (1m) 1. **LUNCH PARTY** (Iona Wands, 10-1); 2. **Glen Ogil** (A Mackay, 7-1); 3. **Nkapen Rocks** (R Ffrench, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Alpine Hideaway, 13 Diepol Gem, 8 Zorba, 10 Kingchip Boy, Needle Match (6th), Shontaine (5th), 12 Fine Ridge Lad (4th), Winston, 14 Anetta, Principal Boy, 16 Trojan Hero. 14 ran. 1¾l, 1l, hd, 3l, 1l. D Nicholls at Thirsk. Tote £14.70; £4.00, £3.10, £4.00. DF £27.80. Trio £314.20. CSF £80.79. Tricast £1,084.64.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £2,858.18 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £1,457.40. **Quadpot:** £136.30.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.40 (5f) 1. **Risky Whisky** (P Roberts, 4-1); 2. Swanmore Lady (4-1); 3. Blue Shadow (9-2). Rapid Reliance 7-2 fav. 8 ran. NR: Adrenalin. ¾l, 5l. J Berry. Tote £3.40; £1.60, £1.20, £1.80. DF £7.80. Trio £7.70. CSF £17.16. Tricast £62.38.

2.10 (5f) 1. **Anokato** (Martin Dwyer, 10-1); 2. Palacegate Jack (11-2); 3. Another Batchworth (15-2). Passionatti 9-2 fav. 10 ran. 2l, 1¾l. K Ivory. Tote £10.60; £2.90, £2.10, £2.10. DF £44.80. Trio £97.00. CSF £60.21. Tricast £414.74.

2.40 (1m 4f) 1. **Night City** (D Sweeney, 9-1); 2. Statajack (5-2 fav); 3. At Liberty (3-1). 13 ran. NR: Oozlem. 2l, 3l. K Burke. Tote £14.00; £3.70, £1.30, £1.10. DF £14.40. Trio £13.60. CSF £27.84.

3.10 (7f) 1. **Saratoga Red** (D Holland, 11-4); 2. Blushing Desert (8-1); 3. Marozia (4-5 fav). 10 ran. ¾l, 2l. W O'Gorman. Tote £3.10; £1.10, £3.00, £1.10. DF £12.80. CSF £22.14.

3.40 (7f) 1. **Twin Creeks** (R Perham, 11-2); 2. Palacegate Touch (14-1); 3. Northern Angel (7-2). Barbason 3-1 fav. 15 ran. NR: Coe-N-K. 3½l, 3½l. V Soane. Tote £5.90; £2.80, £3.10, £2.30. DF £30.80. Trio £15.20. CSF £74.82. Tricast £294.81.

4.10 (1m 2f) 1. **Sea Danzig** (Miss R Illman, 16-1); 2. Magic Mill (6-1); 3. Master Bowled (5-1). Sharp Shuffle 9-2 fav. 14 ran. 1¼l, 1l. J Bridger. Tote £16.40; £3.50, £3.50, £2.20. DF £38.00. Trio £98.10. CSF £105.52. Tricast £525.65.

Placepot: £37.80. **Quadpot:** £10.80.

Towcester

Going: good to soft

1.20 (2m hdle) 1. **Sais Legend** (A P McCoy, 5-2 fav); 2. Margi Boo (11-4); 3. Zehealie (25-1). 9 ran. NR: My Harvinski. 4l, 13l. Miss Z Davison. Tote £3.50; £1.20, £1.20, £11.50. DF £3.90. Trio: £57.00. CSF £9.88.

1.50 (3m 1f ch) 1. **Fortunes Course** (T J Murphy, 15-2); 2. Robsand (11-2); 3. The Whole Hog (2-1 fav). 6 ran. NR: Funcheon Gale, Shamarphil, Snow Board. 7l, 17l. J King. Tote: £11.20; £3.70, £2.90. DF £25.90. Trio £31.20. CSF: £45.11. Tricast £106.37.

2.20 (2m hdle) 1. **Mystic Court** (C Rae, 8-1); 2. Holkham Bay (7-2); 3. Zassan (6-1). Star Manager 4-6 fav. 7 ran. 1l, 6l. A Turnell. Tote £11.00; £4.10, £1.70. DF £19.90. CSF £37.37.

2.50 (2m 110yd ch) 1. **Wilde Music** (J Osborne, 9-2); 2. Kadastrof (13-8 fav); 3. Nordinrick (7-1). 8 ran. NR: Tennessee King. 4l, 7l. C Brooks. Tote £5.00; £1.60, £1.60, £2.50. DF £6.70. Trio: £10.10. CSF: £11.83.

3.20 (2m hdle) 1. **Ol Mother** (A Maguire, 11-10 fav); 2. Hurricane Jane (9-2); 3. *Lotschberg Express* (16-1). 10 ran. ¾l, hd. D Nicholson. Tote £2.20; £1.30, £1.30, £2.70. DF £4.20. Trio £26.30. CSF £6.75.

3.50 (2m 5f hdle) 1. **Splendid** (A Maguire, 9-2); 2. Five Flags (12-1); 3. Jellenes (7-2 fav). 10 ran. Sh hd, 6l. D Nicholson. Tote £5.10; £2.10, £2.30, £1.50. DF £20.70. Trio £102.50. CSF £52.17. Tricast £193.78.

4.20 (2m hdle) 1. **Quistaquay** (R Guest, 7-4 fav); 2. *Maylin Magic* (13-2); 3. Dark Romance (14-1). 9 ran. 3l, 4l. J Mullins. Tote £2.80; £1.20, £3.10, £1.60. DF £11.50. Trio £33.50. CSF £14.28.

Placepot: £148.70. **Quadpot:** £10.80.

[illegible]

FOOTBALL: FERGUSON'S £7 MILLION MAN STARTS TO REPAY INVESTMENT AS FORMER CLUB'S EUROPEAN HOPES FALTER FOR LACK OF GOALS

Cole finally ignites United's ambitions

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ONE was a product of flailing arms and legs that seemed to go in off his thigh; the next, firmly finished and cleverly timed though it might have been, was a tap-in. The third was the easiest goal he will ever score. Yet, for the watching Manchester United fans and their manager, Alex Ferguson, there was a glorious, simple beauty about the hat-trick that Andy Cole completed against Feyenoord on Wednesday night.

There was nothing special about United's first hat-trick in the competition since Denis Law scored one against Waterford in 1968, save that it all but booked them a place in the last eight of the European Cup and left them with the only 100 per cent record in the Champions' League. What made it really significant was that they were all classic goal-poachers' goals, the sort that Ferguson paid £7 million for in January 1995.

Since that move from Newcastle United, Ferguson has improved Cole beyond all recognition as an all-round player. His touch has become surer, his work outside the box more diligent, his ability to hold the ball up and feed other players more refined. What has been lacking, in important games at least, is the predatory touch that made him so revered in the North East.

Cole's hat-trick against Feyenoord is rewarded with a kiss from Beckham and a hug from Sheringham, his Manchester United colleagues

Injuries and periods of poor form have chipped away at the confidence that Cole, like any striker, needs if he is to thrive, and often United have been forced to rely on the attacking potency of their midfield to pick the lock of a defence. If they had an outstanding striker, many have muttered darkly, United would be invincible.

At the De Kuip Stadium, Cole served notice that he may at last be on the verge of fitting that description. Feyenoord are not one of the more accomplished sides in Europe, but it was still a crucial game in an inflammatory, intimidating atmosphere, and Cole came through for them.

He has now scored eight goals, including two hat-tricks, in his past three matches and his prolific striking is likely to gain him a place in Glenn Hoddle's England squad for the match against Cameroon, which will be announced today. Suddenly, Cole the Goal is back in vogue and Ferguson, tentatively, must be hoping that he has added the final piece to his jigsaw.

"It is great to see a change in fortune for Andy," Ferguson said. "The fact that he is really fit now has played a big part in the form he is producing. He is getting regular games and he is showing it with performances that are getting better and better. He is as sharp as a tack now.

"He has taken a lot of stick because of the money we paid for him. I never thought he deserved it. The record he has got in league games is fantastic and anyone playing as well as he is deserves to play for his country. He is the type of striker who relies on confidence and he is doing a smashing job right now."

Statistics can be pushed and prodded to illustrate a point, but Cole's are impressive. They do not tell the story of chances he has missed; whether the goals have been scored in big games or when United have already made a match safe. What they do show is that he has a better strike rate than any United forward since Law.

Cole's record of 37 goals in 80 league games edges out Eric Cantona's ratio of 64 goals in 143. Stuart Pearson scored 55 times in 138 matches in the late Seventies and, more recently, Mark Hughes managed 119 in 345 appearances. It is quite a list and Cole is at its head.

There are still rumours that United are searching for another striker. In the summer, they were supposed to be chasing Gabriel Batistuta; more recently, it was Marcello Salas, another South American, and yesterday stories were circulating that Ferguson had inquired about the price of Andriy Shevchenko, who scored a hat-trick in Dynamo Kiev's 4-0 win over Barcelona.

If Cole keeps playing the way he is, though, if he keeps tempering his new-found ability to create chances by honing his natural instinct to finish them off, Ferguson will be able to put his chequebook back in his pocket while the rest of Europe watches in alarm.

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Borussia Dortmund	4	3	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Parma	4	2	1	1	3	2	[illegible]
Sparta Prague	4	1	[illegible]	2	[illegible]	6	4
Galatasaray	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

RESULTS: Galatasaray 0 Borussia Dortmund 1; Sparta Prague 0 Parma 0; Borussia Dortmund 4 Sparta Prague 1; Parma 2 Galatasaray 0; Parma 1 Borussia Dortmund 0; Sparta Prague 3 Galatasaray 0; Borussia Dortmund 2 Parma 0; Galatasaray 2 Sparta Prague 0.
MATCHES TO COME: *Nov 27:* Parma v Sparta Prague; Borussia Dortmund v Galatasaray. *Dec 10:* Sparta Prague v Borussia Dortmund; Galatasaray v Parma.

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	4	4	0	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	12
Juventus	4	3	0	1	11	[illegible]	[illegible]
Feyenoord	4	1	0	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FC Kosice	4	0	0	4	2	[illegible]	[illegible]

RESULTS: FC Kosice 0 Manchester United 3; Juventus 5 Feyenoord 1; Feyenoord 2 FC Kosice 0; Manchester United 3 Juventus 2; Manchester United 2 Feyenoord 1; FC Kosice 0 Juventus 1; Feyenoord 1 Manchester United 3; Juventus 3 FC Kosice 2.
MATCHES TO COME: *Nov 26:* Feyenoord v Juventus. *Nov 27:* Manchester United v FC Kosice. *Dec 10:* FC Kosice v Feyenoord; Juventus v Manchester United.

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Kiev	4	3	1	0	12	[illegible]	10
PSV Eindhoven	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Newcastle	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Barcelona	4	0	1	3	4	12	1

RESULTS: PSV Eindhoven 1 Dynamo Kiev 3; Newcastle 3 Barcelona 2; Barcelona 2 PSV Eindhoven 2; Dynamo Kiev 2 Newcastle 2; Dynamo Kiev 3 Barcelona 0; PSV Eindhoven 1 Newcastle 0; Barcelona 0 Dynamo Kiev 4; Newcastle 0 PSV Eindhoven 2.
MATCHES TO COME: *Nov 26:* Barcelona v Newcastle. *Nov 27:* Dynamo Kiev v PSV Eindhoven. *Dec 10:* PSV Eindhoven v Barcelona; Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev.

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

RESULTS: Real Madrid 4 Rosenborg 1; Olympiakos 1 FC Porto 0; FC Porto 0 Real Madrid 2; Rosenborg 5 Olympiakos 1; Rosenborg 2 FC Porto 0; Real Madrid 5 Olympiakos 1; FC Porto 1 Rosenborg 1; Olympiakos 0 Real Madrid 0.
MATCHES TO COME: *Nov 27:* Rosenborg v Real Madrid; FC Porto v Olympiakos. *Dec 10:* Real Madrid v FC Porto; Olympiakos v Rosenborg.

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

RESULTS: Bayern Munich 2 Besiktas 0; Paris Saint-Germain 3 IFK Gothenburg 0; IFK Gothenburg 1 Bayern Munich 3; Besiktas 3 Paris Saint-Germain 1; Besiktas 1 IFK Gothenburg 0; Bayern Munich 5 Paris Saint-Germain 1; IFK Gothenburg 2 Besiktas 1; Paris Saint-Germain 3 Bayern Munich 1.
MATCHES TO COME: *Nov 26:* Besiktas v Bayern Munich; IFK Gothenburg v Paris Saint-Germain. *Dec 10:* Bayern Munich v IFK Gothenburg; Paris Saint-Germain v Besiktas.

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

RESULTS: Sporting Lisbon 3 Monaco 0; Bayer Leverkusen 1 Lierse 0; Lierse 1 Sporting Lisbon 1; Monaco 4 Bayer Leverkusen 0; Monaco 5 Lierse 1; Sporting Lisbon 0 Bayer Leverkusen 2; Lierse 0 Monaco 1; Bayer Leverkusen 4 Sporting Lisbon 1.
MATCHES TO COME: *Nov 26:* Monaco v Sporting Lisbon; Lierse v Bayer Leverkusen. *Dec 10:* Sporting Lisbon v Lierse; Bayer Leverkusen v Monaco.

Dalglish must step up search for marksman

By David Maddock

AS NEWCASTLE United's players filed out of St James' Park on a damp, swirling Wednesday evening, the embarrassment hidden behind stony expressions was briefly illuminated by a rogue, late flurry of fireworks that exploded across the flat sky.

It was a significant moment. The club's expectant supporters had come in tingling anticipation of a November 5 celebration of their side's Champions' League pedigree. But all they witnessed was a bonfire of their players' vanities, as the squad's limitations were comprehensively exposed.

The English club performed with great heart under difficult circumstances against PSV Eindhoven, their efforts ultimately undermined by debilitating injuries and suspension. But the reaction of the players afterwards revealed that, for all their honourable effort, they lack true quality.

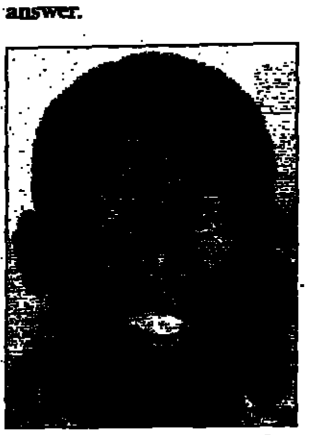
Kenny Dalglish's men almost tiptoed past the media, declining interviews with a shame-faced shake of the head. They left it to one of their walking wounded, Faustino Asprilla, to spell out the consequences of a second defeat in as many weeks by the Dutch club.

"It is almost impossible now for us to qualify for the quarter-finals," Asprilla said. "And I think it will be very difficult now for us to win the league in England, also. The demands of playing in both competitions are enormous. It's asking a lot of any club to be successful in both. It's taken its toll on us because of injuries, and that has made it difficult. I came to win things and to play against the top teams in Europe. I have not come to sit around in the freezing weather and catch a cold."

If Asprilla goes, who will follow? Dalglish has spent the last week offering a bristling defence of his side's qualities. But after the game on Wednesday, one of his players admitted to me that, while Newcastle have commitment and endeavour, they do not have the genuine quality in depth of the leading European teams.

It will take time to build such a squad, and the budget is limited. Qualification for the European Cup quarter-finals would have brought at least an extra £2 million into the club, and almost certainly considerably more. The name being bandied around Tyneside as a possible target of Dalglish to strengthen his attack exposes the restrictions he is operating under. It is Kevin Campbell, the Nottingham Forest striker.

Things will look far less gloomy when Asprilla returns, and both Batty and Lee are restored after suspension. But action is still required, and Campbell is not the answer.



Asprilla: disheartened

Dalglish has the technical ability of Barnes and the fleeting talents of Ketsbaia, but beyond that, and the Colombian's maverick skills, there is a shortage of inspiration, and a shortage of goals. Contrast that with Kevin Keegan's Newcastle and it is not hard to understand why the natives are a little restless at St James' Park.

However, there is no crisis, and Dalglish is already some way into a renovation job that was urgently required after Keegan's flawed reign. His long-term task will be to supplement Barnes's qualities in midfield and exchange his defence for a new model. But his most pressing engagement remains to appease the muttering supporters with a top quality striker.

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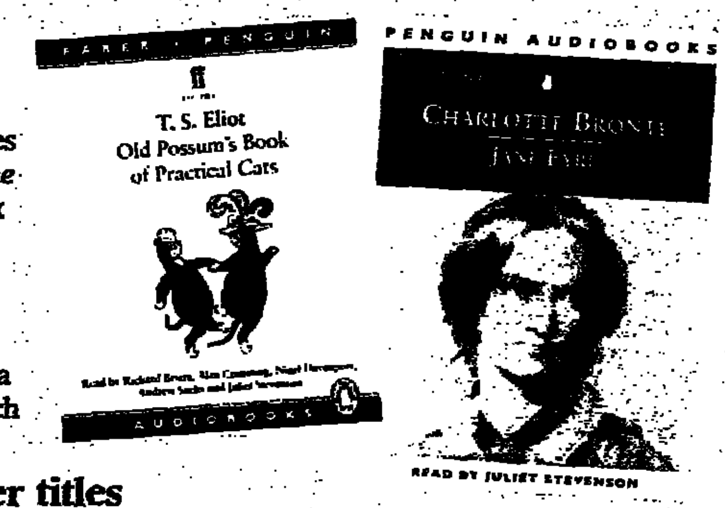

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CHANGING TIMES

Bradford sign McGinlay to bolster their ambitions

By Our Sports Staff

JOHN McGINLAY yesterday joined Bradford City, the Nationwide League first division club, from Bolton Wanderers for £625,000. The Scotland international has managed only three first-team starts since Bolton's return to the FA Carling Premiership.

McGinlay, 33, started his career at Shrewsbury Town and played for Bury and Millwall before joining Bolton for £100,000.

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said: "Ideally, we didn't want John to leave us. He's been a tremendous player for Bolton, scoring goals and contributing magnificently in the day-to-day activities of the club. But John felt he would not get the number of games he required here and it was best that he should move on."

McGinlay's last start for Bolton came in a Coca-Cola Cup match against Wimbledon last month — Bolton's first win at the Reebok Stadium.

Chris Kamara, the Bradford manager, emphasised the signing of McGinlay displayed how high his club — lying eighth in the table — was aiming this season. "We're doing all right, but that's the best time to add top-quality players — when you're doing well," Kamara said. "That's how ambitious we are this season. We've been in contact with Bolton for two weeks and the fee has gone higher and higher. We've agreed two fees with them and they've come back and asked for more.

"Eventually, we got to meet their demands. There was also interest from one or two other clubs and we had to beat them. He scored 30 goals last season and was top scorer in the first division. Obviously we hope he is top scorer again this year."

Kamara has been warned after being found guilty of misconduct during his side's 1-1 draw with Portsmouth last month.

Kamara was charged after an incident involving the Portsmouth physiotherapist and one of the Bradford players. "The only reason I got a warning was because I broke one rule, which was entering the field of play," Kamara said. "I was hoping to be cleared completely, but I wasn't aware of the rule. Other than that, I was vindicated."

Wimbledon hold the key to Bournemouth's hopes of signing Andreas Lundt, the Norway Under-21 international, on loan from FK Molde.

The Nationwide League second division club has agreed terms with Aaghi Haradi, the Molde manager, and the striker, a former team-mate of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, now with Manchester United, to join Bournemouth until the end of the season.

A final decision rests with Molde's owners, who also have a financial stake in Wimbledon. The Premiership club has first refusal on the Norwegian club's players.

"Molde are keen to allow Lindt to play in England — but they don't really want him to play in the Premiership," Trevor Watkins, the Bournemouth chairman, said. "He is a good young player who they rate at least as highly as Solskjaer."

Bath call time on Park life

Non-League Football
By Walter Gammie

BATH CITY expect to confirm their intention to sell Twerton Park, their home for the past 65 years, at an emergency meeting of their shareholders on November 19.

Leslie Kew, the former Bristol City chairman who is a member of the board of directors, said: "It's something that's been under consideration for many years but has only really been on the cards for the past 12 months.

"It's a typical story. As a club we have a very good asset and no cash. We feel we've got to look forward, turn that asset into cash and relocate."

The club staved off the attentions of the administrators in the aftermath of the departure of Bristol Rovers, their tenants for ten years, at the start of last season but still have debts of £300,000 — increasing daily as they sustain life in the Dr Martens League premier division on attendances that average 500.

"Twerton Park is getting very old and has seen better days," Kew said. "It is expensive to maintain. You travel around and see places like Yeovil, Weymouth, Dorchester and Hednesford, simple and almost maintenance free grounds built to modern specifications. They might not hold 15,000 people but we do not need that."

Kew says a conditional contract for the sale of Twerton Park may be signed within six weeks — which would include a clause that would allow Bath to stay at the ground for another two seasons. "I can't say anything about a new ground at the moment but the signs are encouraging," he said. He believes it will be three years in the making and would certainly be within the city area.

The perils of not having a site lined up before leaving a ground can be amply demonstrated by the toils of Trowbridge Town, Bath's present tenants, who sold their ground to meet a £100,000 option called in by Beazer Homes.

Although they had planning permission for a site in the Southwick area of the town, the refusal by West Wiltshire Council to allow them a letter of intent has killed the plan. It means they cannot apply for grants to boost the £200,000 they have left in the bank. Tony Moore, the chairman, said: "You can understand our disappointment when you consider it was seven years ago that we set in train the move to Southwick." The cost of the application was £35,000.

☐ Gateshead, second bottom in the Conference, this week appointed John Carroll, the former Runcorn and Halifax Town manager, to succeed Jim Platt, who resigned ten days ago.

THE TIMES
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THE TIMES F. A. YOUTH CUP

The Times FA Youth Cup Second round Draw

to be played on or before December 13, 1997

Derby or Blackpool v Everton
Bury v Peterborough or Doncaster
Bradford v Bolton or Scarborough
Sheffield Utd v Tranmere
Leeds v Oldham
West Bromwich v Manchester City
Blackburn v Manchester Utd
Gloucester or Southampton v Somersham or Histon or Gravesend and Northfleet
Torquay or Leyton Orient v Bristol City
Norwich v Crystal Palace
Chipstead or Chelsea v Wimbledon
Ipswich v Crawley or Great Wakering
Exeter or Colchester v Arsenal
Tottenham v Reading or Oxford Utd
Plymouth or Hereford v Fulham or Abingdon
Woking or Brighton v Gillingham

RUGBY UNION

Long's chance to jump to head of hooking queue

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

ONE of tomorrow's Heineken Cup quarter-finals could offer Andrew Long the springboard from which to catapult into England's squad for the game against Australia at Twickenham next week. Though Bath will not confirm their XV to play Cardiff until tomorrow, Long will start ahead of Mark Regan, the present England hooker, in the knowledge that places in England's first international of the season are up for grabs.

The position of hooker is only one of those in doubt, considering that neither Regan nor Gloucester's Phil Greening have been automatic choices for their respective clubs this season. Long, only 20, played in Clive Woodward's England Under-21 teams last season and, now that Woodward is the senior national coach, the youngster has also appeared in several senior training squads.

The England party of 21 will be announced next Tuesday, which makes tomorrow's games of particular significance, given the mixed form of several leading contenders.

The Allied Dunbar Premiership meeting of Northampton and Saracens — brought forward from Sunday — will pit Matthew Dawson against Kyran Bracken in a contest between the country's two leading scrum halves, while Richard Hill also returns for Saracens.

Hill, England's open-side flanker last season, has had to watch Neil Back advance his claims over the past three weeks while recovering from injury but at least, in that position, Woodward has cover to spare. Elsewhere he is less well off. Tim Stimpson, despite his unsettled position at Newcastle, has no serious rival at full back.

King: rapid advance

It would also be a comfort to Woodward if Alex King proved his fitness for Wasps against Brive on Sunday. Though Mike Catt must hope to retain the No 10 jersey, King's advance this season has been significant and Catt's footballing ability could well earn him a place at centre, the position in which he first sprang to prominence with Bath.

Meanwhile the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) said yesterday that players would be permitted to wear protective garments, including headgear, in the internationals to be played before Christmas.

It seems a remarkable coincidence — to say the least — that the three southern-hemisphere powers, many of whose players have worn illegal protection for some time, are involved in those internationals.

The Lions wore protective vests in the summer series but the issue was brought back into the spotlight during the Heineken Cup pool games, when Bath and Pontypridd discovered just before their kick-off that they were not allowed to wear them.

The IRFB claims that this will be a trial period applicable only in internationals, with domestic requirements (where only pads taped to the body are allowed) unchanged. This seems something of a nonsense. Either protective vests are legitimate or they are not.

Michael Lynagh will decide before Christmas whether this will be his last season. The Australian, 34, the world's leading international points-scorer who is in his second season with Saracens, hinted in an interview screened on Sky Sports's *The Rugby Club* that business opportunities and the physical demands the game is making on him might influence his decision.

Sponsor invests in the future of five nations'

FOR the first time in its 115-year history, the five nations' championship will be sponsored (Mark Souster writes). Lloyds TSB was confirmed yesterday as the new backer in a wide-ranging sponsorship deal worth £12 million. It also includes the 1999 World Cup (for which the company will be the official bank), the qualification tournament next season involving England, Scotland and Ireland, separate individual internationals and the development of youth rugby.

Lloyds TSB, the world's biggest bank in terms of market capitalisation, will be the title sponsor of the 1999 and 2000 five nations' championships, with an option thereafter. In the five nations' this year, home games played by England, Ireland and Wales will be known as Lloyds TSB internationals. The company's name also will be attached to matches this season between Scotland and Australia, England and New Zealand, and Wales and Italy.

The contract between the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Scottish Rugby Union ends this season after a 15-year association, while that between Société Generale and the Federation Française de Rugby (FFR) ends after the 1999 championship. Negotiations between FFR and Lloyds TSB about what happens thereafter are ongoing.

The breakdown of the monies provided by Lloyds TSB has not been revealed, but the income from the five nations' element will be distributed equally. Lower down the scale, the bank is backing the Dragons' Rugby Trust for under-21 players in Wales; similar schemes are intended in England and Scotland. "We are backing the game from grass roots to glory," Ford Ennals, of Lloyds TSB, said.

SWANSEA EVENING POST

Delme Thomas, the Llanelli captain, is carried shoulder high from the field after the club's victory over the New Zealanders 25 years ago

The famous day Llanelli's pubs ran dry

Gerald Davies, who learnt to admire the All Blacks at his father's knee, recalls a rare and historic defeat

Nothing in rugby matches the eager anticipation of a visit from the All Blacks — even if they are here for a mere month instead of the three they once used to stay.

For my part, this sense of delight, to begin with, is an inheritance. After all, it is not only the sins but occasionally the joys of the father that visit the son. Central to my father's way of life was first that cut and thrust of the old *Daily Herald* kind of politics and second, sporting argument which, to all intents and purposes, meant rugby and football.

In two points he would brook no argument. As he drew an imaginary but conclusive line with his forefinger in mid-air, no one was allowed to touch Aneurin Bevan. That, as they say, was that. If the subject turned to the All Blacks who, to him, were personified in the great Maori — or, as it was invariably pronounced in west Wales, Ma-Hori, with the emphasis on the second syllable — George Nepia, a reverential silence was also observed, more pronounced almost than that for the MP for Ebbw Vale.

At the mention of the All Blacks, my father would inhale his Woodbine cigarette, thin but heavily nicotined, raise his head gently and stare wistfully at a fixed point on the horizon as if trying to imagine the other end of the world from where Nepia came. He would swivel his head from side to side and exhale with a muffled hiss through pursed lips.

"What a team," he might have said had he ever felt it necessary to explain. Normally voluble and articulate on such matters, this gesture was sufficient in itself to signify that the All Blacks were beyond compare. He simply respected them more than any other.

His local team, though, was Llanelli. The Scarlets. In their centenary year, the club was accorded a fixture against the New Zealanders, led by Ian Kirkpatrick. There was to everyone's way of thinking, especially that of Carwyn James, their immaculate coach, a chance to make history. Swansea had beaten New Zealand in 1935, Cardiff did the same in 1953 and, ten years later, so had Newport. To fulfil their destiny, to be counted in the pantheon of Welsh rugby, the Scarlets had to triumph against the legendary black jerseys bearing the silver fern.

On October 31, 1972, with Stradey Park full to the brim with the passion of 24,000 voices, the sovereign wreath was won. This was the day according to Welsh rugby's troubador, Max Boyce, when "the pubs ran dry," and Phil Bennett, the club's great fly half, believed it to be "the greatest day of my rugby life," while the captain, Delme Thomas, usually quiet of manner and impassive of face, was carried shoulder high from the field in glory.

With Llanelli winning 9-3 my father came home pleased. But it was never going to be enough to change his mind. It had been his club's day. But to his way of thinking the All Blacks remained peerless.

Other countries from the southern hemisphere may claim similar supremacy but their reputations remain open to question. The Springboks, for all their power and influence, can fall short of good opinion and, in their time, caused bitter disapproval. They are rigid and blinkered while their motives are often suspect. The Wallabies' fame and success, because relatively recent, remain a flicker in rugby history. They have yet to pass the longevity test.

The All Blacks, from rugby's early beginnings, have rarely been anywhere other than basking in the full glare of the sun. The shadow of ordinariness has never touched them.

Experience, along with my legacy, has confirmed the belief they are the best rugby nation of all. Time and again they have proved their worth. The Springboks may have won the World Cup but it is the All Blacks who rule the rugby world. New Zealand have moved seamlessly into the professional world simply because professionalism was a matter of attitude to them and one which, in any case, they had always had. Tomorrow they return to Stradey Park to begin showing us once more how they do it.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 74 Miami 90; Charlotte 110 Dallas 103; Detroit 87 Indiana 99; New Jersey 112 Golden State 96; Philadelphia 88 Atlanta 93; Chicago 94 Orlando 81, San Antonio 87 Vancouver 79; Los Angeles Clippers 110 Houston 124

FENCING

GDANSK: European championships: Men: Foil: Final: A Krzesinski (Pol) bt S Golubicki (Ukr) 15-10. Women: Epée: Final: I Mincze (Hun) bt K Nass (Ger) 15-14.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Borussia Dortmund 2 Parma 0; Galatasaray 2 Sparta Prague 0 Group B: Juventus 3 FC Kosice 2; Feyenoord 1 Manchester United 3. Group C: Barcelona 0 Dynamo Kiev 4; Newcastle 0 PSV Eindhoven 2. Group D: FC Porto 1 Rosenborg 1; Olympiakos 0 Real Madrid 0 Group E: IFK Gothenburg 2 Besiktas 1; Paris Saint-Germain 3 Bayern Munich 1. Group F: Lierse SK 0 AS Monaco 1; Bayer Leverkusen 4 Sporting Lisbon 1.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Middlesbrough 1 Portsmouth 1; Swindon 3 Queens Park Rangers 1 Third division: Brighton 0 Barnet 3.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Clydebank 4 Queen of the South 0.

UEFA CUP: Second round, second leg: Anderlecht (Bel) 1 Schalke 04 (Ger) 2 (Schalke win 3-1 on agg).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Cup: Preliminary round, second leg: Sittingbourne 3 Crawley (Crawley win 8-6 on agg) 5; Wisbech 1 Grantham 4 (Grantham win 5-1 on agg).

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Guardian Insurance Cup: Second round: Harlow 2 Bromley 3

FA CARLSBERG VASE: First round replay: Porthleven 2 Swindon Supermarine 1; Newbury AFC 0 Endsleigh 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Cup: Group one: Oldham 2 Burnley 1 Group two: Sheffield United 4 Scunthorpe 1 Group three: Walsall 4 Leicester 2. Group four: Wigan 1 Stoke 5. Group six: Rotherham 1 Blackpool 1; Tranmere 8 Scarborough 3

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Southampton 1 Tottenham 1; Watford 2 Queens Park Rangers 1; Wimbledon 2 Luton 0.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Soham 1 Newmarket 1, Stowmarket 0 Felixstowe P and T 1

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Cowes Sports 8 Ryde Sports 0; Eastleigh 0 Gosport 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Corinthian 0 Chatham 2.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Torrington 0 Barnstaple 4.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Deveronvale 1 Nairn County 0

FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Shrewsbury 5 Boldmere St Michaels 1; Bradford 9 Nuneaton 0; Bournemouth 0 Gillingham 3; Huddersfield 1 York 2. Third qualifying round replay: Wembley 1 Walton and Hersham 2

DUTCH LEAGUE: MVV Maastricht 4 Volendam 1

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Tunisia 2 Bosnia 1 (in Tunis).

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Vasco da Gama 2 Atlético Mineiro 0; Corinthians 1 Flamengo 0; União São João 0 Guarani 1; Juventude 2 Bragantino 1; Santos 2 America-Natal 0

HOCKEY

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Egypt 2 England 3; Egypt 3 England 6 (both in Cairo)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pittsburgh 2 Dallas 5; Carolina 3 Detroit 1, Florida 2 New Jersey 4; Montreal 4 Phoenix 2; New York Islanders 4 Edmonton 4; Calgary 3 Toronto 4; Colorado 2 New York Rangers 4; Anaheim 5 Tampa Bay 2.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Buenos Aires 12 Australia XV 17 (in Buenos Aires); Oxford University 16 Tonga XV 31; London Irish 7 New South Wales 52.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail under-18 Cup: Third round: RGS High Wycombe 50 Henley 0; Trinity 15 Eltham 22 Other matches: KES, Camp Hill 21 King's, Worcester 25; St Edward's, Oxford 41 Warwick 0; Taunton 44 King's, Taunton 17, King Edward's Aston 7 Denstone 52; Kent Coll 69 Roger Manwood School 0.

SQUASH

KUALA LUMPUR: World championships: Second round: A Gough (Wales) bt C Walker (Eng) 9-15, 10-15, 15-12, 15-10, 15-12; M Cairns (Eng) bt S Parke (Eng) 15-10, 15-14, 3-15, 15-8; A Barada (Egypt) bt M Chaloner (Eng) 15-10, 15-3, 15-9. P Nicol (Scot) bt D Evans (Wales) 12-15, 15-7, 15-5, 15-7; P Marshall (Eng) bt D Jenson (Aus) 15-6, 15-6, 15-13; J Power (Can) bt Amjad Kahn (Pak) 15-9, 15-6, 15-4; R Eyles (Aus) bt C Wapnick (SA) 15-11, 15-13, 5-15, 15-12; A Hill (Aus) bt G Ryding (Can) 17-15, 15-9, 15-9.

TENNIS

STOCKHOLM: Stockholm Open: First round: T Enqvist (Swe) bt M Norman (Swe) 7-5, 6-3; T Johansson (Swe) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 6-2, 7-5; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt M-K Goellner (Ger) 6-4, 5-2 ret. Second round: P Rafter (Aus) bt J van Herck (Bel) 6-3, 6-4; C Pioline (Fr) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, G Rusedski (GB) bt L Roux (Fr) 6-4, 7-6; Bjorkman bt Johansson 6-4, 7-5; M Larsson (Swe) bt Enqvist 6-1, 6-2.

MOSCOW: Kremlin Cup: Second round: A O'Brien (US) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 5-7, 6-4, 6-1; P Korda (Cz) bt K Carlsen (Den) 7-6, 5-7, 6-4; S Sargsian (Arm) wo B Ulihrach (Cz). Quarter-finals: W Black (Zim) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-1, 6-2; Korda bt O'Brien 7-5, 6-3.

SANTIAGO: Chevrolet Cup: Second round: M Puerta (Arg) bt A Viloca (Sp) 6-4, 6-3; R Vasek (Cz) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-4, 7-5; J Alonso (Sp) bt M Craca (Ger) 6-4, 1-6, 7-5; M Filippini (Uru) bt A Martin (Sp) 7-5, 6-3.

CHICAGO: Ameritech Cup: First round: Y Basuki (Indo) bt L Osterloh (US) 6-0, 6-3; S Appelmans (Bel) bt M J Fernandez (US) 6-2, 6-1; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt T Snyder (US) 6-4, 6-3. Second round: M Seles (US) bt M Grzybowska (Pol) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2

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SQUASH

Marshall takes up the baton

From Colin McQuillan in Kuala Lumpur

FOUR Britons will contest the quarter-finals of the individual World Open championship here, but only one of them is a member of the four-man England squad sent to defend the world team title.

Peter Marshall, the former world No 2, forced to qualify here after two years out of the game struggling with chronic fatigue syndrome, remains to represent official England.

He defeated Dan Jenson, the tenth seed, 15-6, 15-6, 15-13 in 45 minutes yesterday. To become only the third qualifier to reach a World Open semi-final in 21 years, however, the double-handed 26-year-old must raise his game yet again to deal with the effervescent fourth seed, Jonathon Power, of Canada, today.

The reigning British champion, Mark Cairns, who missed selection for the national squad, also survived, at the expense of Simon Parke, the fourth-seeded England first string.

Cairns faces Alex Gough in the quarter-final. Gough, the first Welshman to reach such a stage in the World Open and the man Cairns defeated for his British title last January, put out Chris Walker, the England captain, 9-15, 10-15, 15-12, 15-10, 15-12 in 91 minutes.

Peter Nicol, the second seeded Scot, beat the young Welsh champion, David Evans, 10-15, 15-7, 15-5, 15-7, in 55 minutes and will today meet the fifth seed, Ahmed Barada, of Egypt, who disposed of Mark Chaloner, of England, in straight games yesterday.

The top quarter-final is between two Australians — Rodney Eyles, the No 1 seed, and Anthony Hill, whose ban from his national team for the rest of the century resulted in large part from the disgusted reaction of Eyles to Hill's aggressive tactics against Mir Zaman Gul, of Pakistan, in the last world team championship, two years ago.

EQUESTRIANISM

Smith mounts quest for final

By Jenny MacArthur

ROBERT SMITH will attempt to capitalise on his sixth placing in the Amsterdam World Cup qualifier last month when he competes at the Brussels International Show this weekend. Smith is riding the in-form Senator Tees Hanauer, whose successes this season include the Dublin Grand Prix and a team bronze medal at the European championships in Mannheim.

Despite a clash of dates with Vienna and Toronto, the show, which hosts the sixth of 16 qualifiers, has attracted many leading riders, including Ulrich Kirchhoff, the Olympic champion, of Germany, and Markus Beerbaum and Lars Nieberg, members of their gold medal-winning team in Mannheim. Trevor Coyle and Cruising, winners of the Millstreet qualifier last week, head the Irish contingent.

Britain has only two riders — Smith and Michael Whitaker. British riders have made little impression on the World Cup rankings, from which the top 19 qualify for the final in Sweden in April. Smith, at joint 29th, is the highest-placed.

After Tees Hanauer's recent performances, Smith, 36, is confident he can improve that placing on Sunday. Although 17, the German-bred gelding — Britain's third-highest money-winner — has betrayed little sign of his age with good rounds in Mannheim and Amsterdam.

Whitaker will ride Virtual Village Ashley in the qualifier and Two Step in the grand prix tomorrow.

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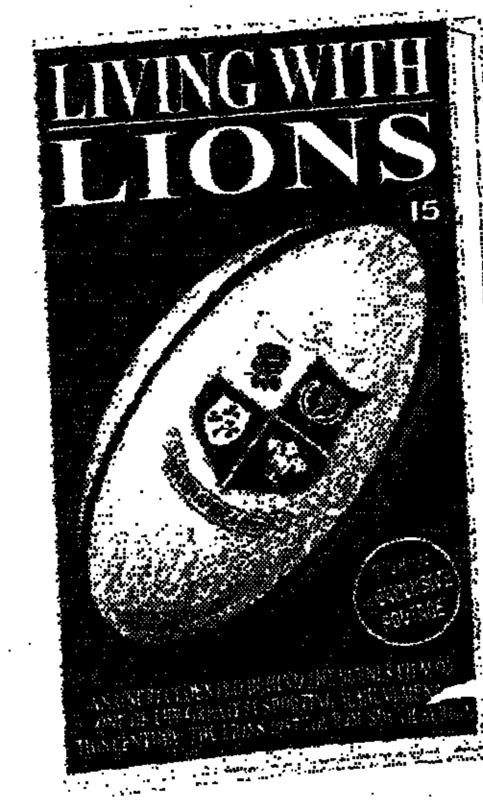

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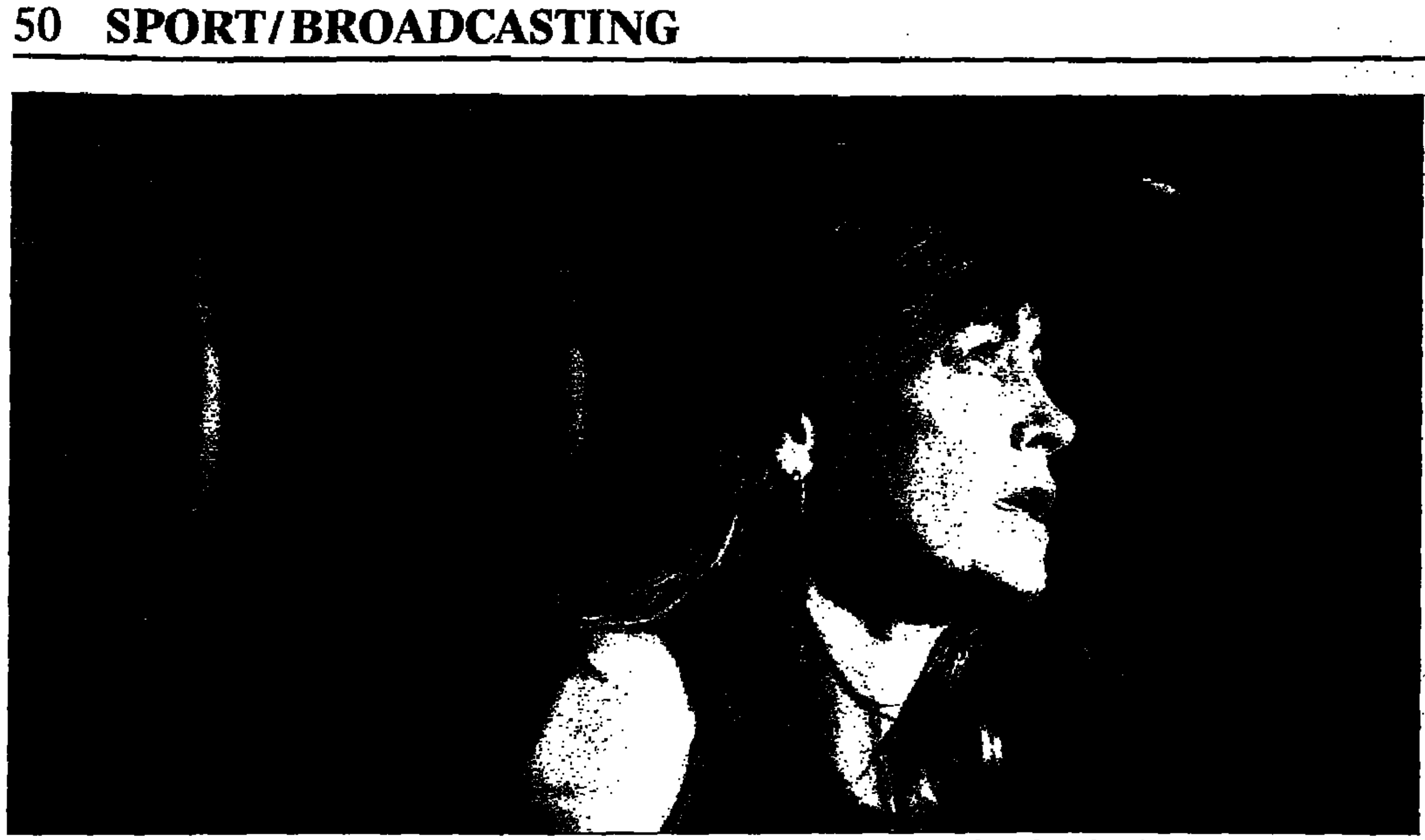

Watson hones her powerlifting skills twice a day, fitting in training sessions around her work as a physiotherapist. Photograph: Ashley Coombes

Age of no concern to Watson

John Goodbody meets a dual international who still retains a burning desire to succeed at the highest level

In running, Leslie Watson is a legend. In powerlifting, she could become one. The Marlene Dietrich of British sport, Watson is famously shy about her age, but she is an international athlete who has completed 206 marathons and twice won the London to Brighton road race.

While many male runners would recover from such feats by gently massaging their legs and sipping drinks, Watson would concentrate on her make-up for the medal ceremony.

Tomorrow, she defends her title in the world powerlifting championships in Blackpool. To represent Britain in two sports is now a rarity, but to do so in such contrasting disciplines is a remarkable achievement.

The stamina of ultra-distance running has little in common with the focused force of powerlifting. One activity lasts for hours: the other for seconds. There is little crossover of physical ability.

Watson was not particularly gifted as a short-distance runner. "When I was only five, I used to arrange races with my friends after school, or after dancing classes. They always beat me so I went on and on, race after race, until eventually I outlasted someone." She came under the guidance of John Anderson, one of Britain's most successful athletics coaches, and, at the age of 18, became the Scottish mile champion.

She ran her first marathon when hot pants were fashionable. "I wore them but really I was a little too fat, so one day when I saw an advertisement for a marathon, it crossed my mind that marathon running might be slimming."

So began an epic series of races, making her a celebrated figure in events around the world. Her best time, set in 1986, was 2hr 43min. Many of her competitors were her patients, because at the same time as running she was building up a successful physiotherapy practice in the West End of London.

Her marathon career finished on the Isle of Wight in 1994 with a knee injury. "I have tried to limp along but there is wearing of the cartilages and a slight tear in one of them." She would like to run again and places great hopes in acupunture and a suitable diet.

She had been unable to do aerobics, did not like cycling, found swimming inconvenient and so restarted weight training, which she had done as a teenager. "Even then I really enjoyed weights; I had a feel for the sport. I used to love it when weightlifting was shown on television and often used to read bodybuilding magazines."

Watson in her heyday as a marathon runner

With her highly competitive approach she wanted to know what events she could enter. She spoke to Ruth Jordan, the female bodybuilder who is Miss UK, who told her: "You could train every day for six years just to come last." So she began training every day, planning eventually to come first.

In her first powerlifting competition, she lifted only the bar, but at least she had started. Powerlifting consists of three lifts: the bench press, squat and dead-lift, movements that put greater emphasis on sheer strength than the two Olympic lifts of the snatch and the clean-and-jerk.

Watson often trains twice a day, fitting her sessions at a gym in Kilburn High Road around her appointments as a physiotherapist.

She has added only about half a stone since her running days and competes in the under-48kg (7½st) class. She can bench press 67½kg (149lb), squat 100kg and dead-lift 115kg, amazing figures for someone of her weight, age and background in another sport.

She says that she is 47 years old, but articles in the past have given her a variety of birthdates. The reason she has been so coy is because she always wants to compete in open categories, not in events restricted by age.

Watson believes she has "fast twitch" fibres for her arms but "slow twitch" for her legs. This means that she can excel in an explosive movement using her upper body, a movement such as bench press, but flourishes in more sustained movements with her lower body. The sports of running and powerlifting also, however, require a different temperament.

"I find I was far more laid back for running," she said. "There is all the chit-chat between competitors. But I have to calm myself for powerlifting. Sometimes I cannot write my own name because I am so nervous."

Her training partner, Fay Milham, 50, will be competing as a veteran. Watson looks worried. "She is catching me up quite quickly. In training, if she ups the weight, then I do as well. Then I raise more and she has to follow me." Watson's desire to excel remains insatiable, whatever her age and whatever the sport.

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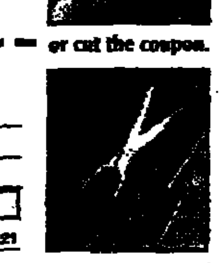

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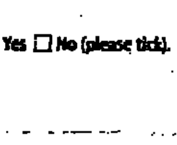

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League
First division
Manchester City v Huddersfield (7.45)
Second division
Oldham v Gillingham (7.45)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v UCD (7.45).
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Burnley v Wrexham (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle Eagles v London Leopards (7.30)
Uni-ball Trophy: Sheffield Sharks v Chester Jets (7.30)

Answers from page 46

DEMETRIUS

(a) A silversmith of Ephesus with a special line in silver shrines of Diana (Artemis). With the slogan "Great is Diana of the Ephesians", he stirred up a mob against Paul, whose preaching was inimical to the cult of the goddess and consequently to his trade.

ZERUBBABEL

(b) A scion of the royal line of David and the leader, with the priest Jeshua, of the first expedition of Jewish exiles from Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem. Zerubbabel's expedition consisted of Levites, Benjaminites and Judahites, and was not well received by the other tribes which had remained west of the Jordan, particularly after Zerubbabel rebuffed their offers to help with the rebuilding of the city and the Temple.

AGABUS

(a) He prophesied in Antioch the famine which was to befall in the days of the Emperor Claudius. The Christians in Antioch made a collection and sent Barnabus and Paul with it to Jerusalem. The same Agabus or another prophesied Paul's arrest by the Jews of Jerusalem.

SIHON

(c) King of the Amorites. His capital was at Heshbon. His domains lay to the east of the Dead Sea. He refused peaceful passage to Moses and the Israelites who therefore attacked and defeated him and took all his lands. Sihon was caught at an unlucky moment. He had recently expanded his kingdom in war against the Moabites but had not had time to establish sure control.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxd7! Rxd7 2 Be6 Rd8 (2 ... b3 is met by 3 Bxb3 and the white pawns will win) 3 d7 b3 4 c6 b2 5 Ba2 and the white pawns win.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Regent Street's ocean liner

One Foot in Broadcasting House
BBC2, 8.00pm

The BBC could hardly let its 75th anniversary go by without celebrating the building which since 1932 has been its headquarters. The job falls to Patrick Wright, who knows Broadcasting House as a Radio 3 presenter and is alive to both its splendid period architecture and maddening impracticalities. Sadly much of the 1930s flamboyance has been removed by later refurbishment as function has taken over from style. But Wright admirably conveys the flavour of BH, immediately (and ever since) compared to an ocean liner beached at the top of Regent Street. It was the first building in England to have air conditioning and its lifts were once the fastest in London. George Orwell used BH as the model for his Ministry of Truth in *1984* but the people Wright talks to have only affection for the place.

Dangerfield
BBC1, 9.30pm

The last thing poor Dr Paul wants when he is trying to get ready for his daughter's wedding is to be the target of an armed gang or, for that matter, to have his surgery torched. To the last, and this is positively his final appearance before being written out of the show, Nigel Le Vaillant's police surgeon wears the trademark frown. But regular viewers will know that from even its darkest moments, *Dangerfield* has a knack of making sure that its plots land sunny side up. And so, without giving anything away, it is here. As one Nigel leaves, another takes over. As announced before the start of this series, Le Vaillant's successor is to be Nigel Havers, whose character was introduced last week. That Havers plays a Dr Paige will not mean a change of title. Dangerfield has departed but *Dangerfield* lives on.

The Wogan Years
BBC1, 10.20pm

Much of the *Wogan* show was forgettable stuff, actors turning out to plug their latest films and trying to look as if they were enjoying it. And then there was Anne Bancroft. She refused to play the game, stonewalling questions with monosyllabic answers and making it clear that she hated every minute. Perversely, since the show was not meant to be like that, it is the interview that almost everybody remembers. We get a reminder of it tonight. At least Bancroft delivered her disapproval with a smile. Not so Christopher Lloyd, star of *Back to the Future*, who was not only unforthcoming but charmless with it. His PR people must have squirmed. Best of the latest compilation are the war memoirs of Frankie Howerd, Spike Milligan and Peter Ustinov. Worst are the unfunny anecdotes of old Hollywood stars.

Memorable Anne Bancroft (BBC1, 10pm)

Crapston Villas
Channel 4, 11.10pm

Cynics might question the need for *Crapston Villas* when shows such as *EastEnders* are doing the job so well. They might add that the only difference is that while *EastEnders* is 30 minutes of unlikeable people shouting at each other, *Crapston Villas* is the same thing lasting half as long. But that would be too dismissive. *Crapston* is not a real soap but a parody, it uses animation instead of live action and it is able, thanks to the lateness of its transmission time, to be ruder than the average visit to Albert Square. Whether this consideration makes its humour sharper or just crude must be a matter of taste. But this story of dysfunctional folk who occupy various storeys of a south London house has a ghastliness about it that is often appealing. Jane Horrocks and Alison Steadman are among those supplying the voices. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Growing Pains: Liberation or Limitation
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

The second of three programmes with Sue Limb, purports to be a light-hearted look at growing older but somewhat sells itself short by using that description. Limb is certainly amusing but she also produces some touching moments as people open up about their real attitudes as opposed to what they are supposed to think. Mary Cooper, a founder of Growing Old Disgracefully, tells Limb that growing old gracefully simply meant that women remained, or became, invisible, whereas her approach makes women "our own powerful individuals". I am not so sure that being graceful negates power but Cooper is right to point out that older people who behave in a spirited way are often treated as if they are a source of embarrassment.

The Radio 1 Rap Show
Radio 1, 11.00pm

I realise that not every reader will be searching the dial for this tonight but the significance of Tim Westwood's programme on this Friday is that it launches the Music of Black Origin (MOBO) Awards. The awards are presented on Monday night and will be broadcast live by Radio 1 for the first time: they include one for outstanding rhythm and blues music, sponsored by Radio 1. The station's increased involvement this year is further justified by the fact that it has several shows which feature black music, including those presented by Westwood and Trevor Nelson. Westwood, Nelson and Chris Goldfinger, are presenting live shows over the weekend from three venues around London. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. Includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Mobo Weekend: The Radio 1 Rap Show. See Choice **2.00am** One in the Jungle **00** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** David Aaronovitch **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night. James Lockhart conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra **9.15** Kes **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** The Arts Programme **12.05am** Charles Nove **4.00** Diane Louise Jordan

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra with Andie Webster **7.30** Sportstalk **8.30** Friday Sport. Includes Manchester City v Huddersfield Town. Plus, a look at the weekend's horse racing **10.00** Paper Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Lynn Parsons **10.00 (FM)** Robin Banks **(AM)** Graham Dene **1.00pm (FM)** Nick Abbot **(MW)** Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00 (FM)** Paul Coyte **(AM)** Caimin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill Overton and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.15** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Colour of Blood **7.30** Music Review **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Performance **8.30** John Peel **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** History Today **9.30** BBC English: Speaking of English **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Assignment **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Focus on Faith **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Major Killers **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: Alternative **3.00** News; News in German (648 only) **3.05** Football Extra **3.15** Journey to the Centre of the Atom **3.30** Science in Action **4.00** News **4.15** On Your Behalf **4.30** The World Today; News in German (648 only) **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Focus on Faith; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Multitrack: Alternative **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Multitrack Alternative **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** From the Weeklies **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Cross Questioned **2.00** Newsday **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Science in Action **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** The World Today **4.55** Off the Shelf

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann Live from in Crouch End. The first of the day's programmes broadcasting from the presenters' homes **9.00** Henry Kelly Live from Dublin **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones in Bath **2.00** Concerto. Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor) **3.00** Nick Bailey Live from West Hampstead **7.00** Newsnight with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. Mozart (Violin Sonata in B flat) **8.00** Evening Concert. Schubert (Overture, The Magic Harp); Schubert (Heidenroslein); Haydn (Cello Concerto No 2 in D); Brahms (Serenade No 2 in A); Schubert (Symphony No 1 in D) **10.00** Michael Mappin Live from Aberdeen **2.00am** Concerto (r) **4.00** Sally Peterson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes: Hummel (Concertino in G); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 1); Handel (Concerto grosso in B minor); Berlioz (La Spectre de la Rose, Nuits d'ete); Chabrier (Bourree Fantastique)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Vivaldi (Concerto in B minor for four violins and cello); Chopin (Four Mazurkas); Roussel (Symphony No 2 in B flat)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mark Rowlinson. Rachmaninov (Isle of the Dead); Tallis (In Pace, in Idipsum); Novak (The Night, Slovak Suite); Ture Rangstorm (Serenade); Andrew March (Marine a Travers les Arbres); Schubert (Des Fischers Liebesgluck); Victoria (Magnificat a 8); Mendelssohn (String Octet in E flat)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Vaughan Williams
1.00pm News; The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Chris de Souza introduces familiar works in less familiar guises, with transcriptions, arrangements and alternative versions of original compositions. Nelson Goerner, piano. Bach, arr Brahms (Chaconne in D minor); Bach, transcr Busoni (Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C); Rachmaninov (Lilacs, Op 21 No 5; Daisies, Op 38 No 3); Schulz-Evler (Arabesques on a Theme from Strauss's Blue Danube)
2.00 The BBC Archive. Richard Langham Smith searches the archive for French chamber music written during and after the First World War. Includes Poulenc (Rapsodie Nègre); Debussy (Violin Sonata in G minor); Fauré (Cello Sonata No 2 in G minor); Milhaud (Machines Agricoles); Sauguet (Cantata La Voyante); Ravel (Trois Poèmes de Mallarmé)
4.00 Music Restored (r)
4.45 Music Machine, with Verity Sharp
5.00 In Tune. As the 41st London Film Festival gets under way, Sean Rafferty looks back at the role of the British cinema pianist
7.30 Performance on 3. A concert given in May at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Lucy Shelton, soprano, BBC Philharmonic under Peter Maxwell Davies. Maxwell Davies (7 in Nomine, Revelation and Fall); Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in E flat, Eroica)
9.15 Postscript: Ulysses. The novelist and poet Michele Roberts says yes to Molly Bloom (5/5)
9.35 A Short Symphony. Aaron Copland conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in his *Short Symphony*
10.00 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker introduces the last of this season's recordings from the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Garth Knox, viola, Ensemble Exposé under Roger Redgate. Includes Brian Ferneyhough (Incipits); Iannis Xenakis (Embellie); Paul Davies (Genji's Visit to Utsesami); Richard Barrett (Anatomy); James Dillon (Siorram); Roger Redgate (Still); Bent Sorensen (Funeral Procession)
11.30 Composer of the Week: Dussek (r)
12.30am Documenting the Blues (r)
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's castaway is John Julius Norwich (r)
9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley
10.00 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 (FM) News; Growing Pains: Liberation or Limitation? See Choice
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced from London by Margaret Gilmore
11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker
12.25pm The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper. Simon Parkes discovers whether factory-prepared foods can compare with the home-cooked variety **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: Childhood's End, by Arthur C. Clarke, adapted by Tony Mulholland. (1/2) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow reviews a book documenting the lengths to which Stalin went to eliminate all traces of his enemies
4.45 Short Story: On the Death of Ken Saro-Wiwa, by Ken Saro-Wiwa, read by Ben Onwukwe (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places. David Stafford presents more ideas for the weekend ahead
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week. Presented by Gillian Reynolds
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Hethersett, Norfolk, by panelists including Tessa Jowell, Public Health Minister; Anthony King, professor of government at the University of Essex; and the columnist and broadcaster Janet Daley
8.50 Law in Action. Marcel Berlins presents the legal magazine series. Louise Shorter reports on how the laws on assault could be reformed to reflect today's realities, including the deliberate infliction of sexual disease
9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: A Controlled Madness — The Plight of Algerian Culture. Jo Shinner reports on the conflict that has so far claimed over 50,000 lives (r)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Laughter in the Dark, by Vladimir Nabokov, abridged by Neville Teller, read by David Horovitch (10/10)
11.00 Week Ending, with Sally Grace, Jon Glover, Dave Lamb and Sarah Parkinson
11.25 Fourth Column. A sideways look at the week
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Funny Boy, by Shyam Selvadurai, read by Gary Pillai (5/10)
12.48 (LW) Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Cosy, middle-aged men behaving badly

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

When new lads have grown too old to count as new any more, what are we are left with? Old lads? Or just lad lads, too lazy to worry any more about the subtle layers of postmodern irony that make their favourite television programmes funny. If it's funny, it's funny — all right?

It will be important to bear that in mind for the next few Thursday nights, as BBC1 wheels out its big-boys guns — *Men Behaving Badly, They Think It's All Over* and *Clive Anderson All Talk*. For 90 minutes the air will be heavy with the stale scent of . . . things too ghastly to think about. Quite a lot of it will also be very funny.

Particularly in **Men Behaving Badly**, a comedy series which has reached that rare and happy state when we will forgive it anything. It doesn't matter that Gary and Tony have now been stuck in arrested adolescence for so long that the next big event in their lives is likely to be the male menopause. They're *still funny, it all still works,* we forgive them. Easy.

It doesn't matter that Gary and Dorothy are finally teetering towards the altar. They've lived together, they've lived apart, they've been unfaithful, they've gone back to each other. As Gary put it last night: "All right then. We've tried everything else." So that's marriage. No problem. Forgiven.

But what should matter — and really rather a lot — is the sight of Tony and Debs getting together. "Oooooh," went the studio audience as Tony's unexpected skills as a midwife finally proved too much for Deborah. As their lips touched, I waited for the crash of suspended disbelief hitting the ground. I mean, the glossy Deborah and the pea-brained Tony, together — not in a million years. Honestly, where was that crash? It never came.

Not because we bought all Tony's nonsense about women *over 30 having to lower their* standards. It never came because we trust Simon Nye, creator of the series, to make even the downright unbelievable funny.

It never came because we don't want to say goodbye to the four central performances — the scarily honest Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey, and the wonderfully straight-faced but deeply confused Caroline Quentin and Leslie Ash. It never came because of inspired script editing that manages to squeeze more into half an hour than most sitcoms do into three episodes. Gary's stag night could have provided enough material for a feature-length Christmas special. The decision not to show a second of it was inspired.

Goodness knows what Gary and Tony would do if Demi Moore walked into their flat (I've a nasty feeling it would involve cushions), but when she walked into **Clive Anderson All Talk**, *our host did* exactly what we expected him to do. He gabbled. "Star . . . Hollywood . . . glamorous . . . box-office . . . ladies and g'men, Demi Moore." Kermit used to introduce Miss Piggy in a similar style.

Anderson normally so dominates his interviewees that it only really becomes interesting when he fails to. This was one such *occasion, and I was dying to know* why. Was it the after-effect of the Bee Gees walking out? I rather doubted it. Was it because he fancied her? Certainly there was a lot of flirting going on, which, coupled with the fact that Anderson's normal, hectoring style does not work well with women, would explain quite a lot.

Or was it "option C" — the powerful Hollywood publicist, who had made it quite clear that Mr Anderson could have four pre-arranged questions on Ms Moore's marriage, followed by a *long plug for her latest film. On no* account was Ms Moore to be asked about her majestic bosom or how her hair was already tumbling well past her shoulders when she'd had it shaved for *GI Jane*. Oh and another thing, Mr Anderson, Ms Moore was not to be interrupted by your puerile little comments while she was talking seriously and at length about the role of *women in war. That was option C* . . . explained everything, really.

The fact that it worked as well as it did might prompt Anderson to abandon his trademark style, but I doubt it. Moore was funnier than I had expected (she was also much smaller than I had expected, height-wise anyway) and flirted playfully. But anyone who thought they might have misjudged her should bear in mind that this was a woman who stripped to a silver bikini on *David Letterman*. A case of different strokes for different folks, I suppose.

I leave **Dispatches** (Channel 4) until last, simply because Norman Fenton, its producer, had already covered much of the conspiratorial ground in a film he made for ITV's *Network First* last year. This, once again, was the awful tale of the *Gaul*, the Hull fishing trawler which mysteriously sank off the north coast of *Norway in 1974 with the loss of 36* lives. The difference was that this time Fenton had found it.

We were never told the full story of how the wreck was found quite so easily (it took less than a day's search), but pictures of it lying on the bottom of the Barents Sea seemed to make that irrelevant. It was hugely powerful television, a triumph both for Fenton, who has followed the *Gaul* story for years, and for investigative reporting. For the relatives of the lost crew, it was a moment of emotion that had been too long in coming.

Last time out, Fenton was of the opinion that the *Gaul* had been sunk by a Russian submarine surfacing violently during a storm. This time the theories were more confused, the official obfuscation more obvious — but it didn't matter. Finding the wreck was enough. For now.

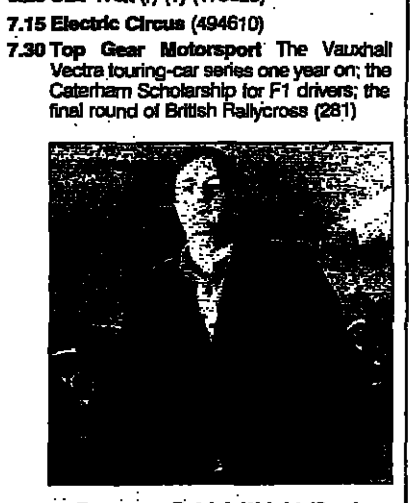
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (32026)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (37484)
9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (5879194)
9.25 Style Challenge (5961129)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (2374741)
10.30 Change That (1682543)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (7176533)
11.35 **Real Rooms** *Applying feng shui to a bedroom (9217674)*
12.00 News (T) regional news and weather (6566465)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (6565543)
12.35 **Going for a Song** *(2585262)*
1.00 News (T) and weather (30571)
1.30 Regional News (T) (84779674)
1.40 The Weather Show (59164939)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (97019804)
2.10 Quincy (r) (2261533)
3.00 World on a Plate British super-pigs and Philippine wonder rice (T) (9754)
3.30 Playdays (r) (8437397) **3.50** Dear Mr Barker (3149736) **4.05** The All New Popeye Show (T) (5748587) **4.10** Casper (T) (3218705) **4.35** Record Breakers (T) (1053397) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5787620) **5.10** Blue Peter: the 35th B.P. Appeal (T) (9638620)
5.35 **Neighbours** *(r) (T) (676620)*
6.00 News (T) and weather (303)
6.30 Regional News (T) (755)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson (T) (8303)
7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (939)
8.00 999 Lifesavers Highlighting the dangers of solvent abuse, which kills 11 times more people every year than Ecstasy (T) (1823)
8.30 **Keeping Up Appearances** *Comedy*, starring Patricia Routledge (r) (T) (3858)
9.00 News (T) regional news and weather (2910)
9.30 Dangerfield Paul is reluctantly drawn into a complicated crash investigation. Last in series (T) (558910)
10.20 The Wogan Years Highlights from the long-running chat show, featuring interviews with Audrey Hepburn, Shirley Temple and Stewart Granger, Sammy Davis Jnr and Frankie Howerd (T) (337129) **WALES: 10.20** Satellite City (767533) **10.50** The Wogan Years (475668) **11.25** FILM: The Witches of Eastwick (236262) **1.15am** FILM: Crucible of Terror (418595) **2.45** Weather (6739392)
10.55 The Witches of Eastwick (1987) with Cher, Michelle Pfeiffer, Susan Sarandon and Jack Nicholson. Humorous fantasy about a trio of sex-starved women who try to bring male company back into their lives with help from the supernatural — but unwittingly conjure up the Devil. Directed by George Miller (T) (31787484)
12.45am Crucible of Terror (1971) with James *Bolam, Mike Raven and Ronald Lacey.* An art-lover visits a deranged sculptor's remote Cornish retreat — only to realise too late why his bronze statues are so lifelike. Directed by Ted Hooker (411682)
2.15 Weather (7469250)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Social Sciences: Modelling in the Motor Industry (53007) **6.30** Whose Body? (24644)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (6331741)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (4240804) **7.40** Smurfs' Adventures (r) (2697945) **8.05** Smart (r) (2104842) **8.30** William's Wish *Wellingtons (9908194)* ***8.35*** *Wishing (r)* (4802668) **8.45** The Record (9890823) **9.10** Music Makers (2494755) **9.30** Watch (4799397) **9.45** Come Outside (4787552) **10.00** Teletubbies (99736) **10.30** Look and Read (2616397) **10.50** *The Art (2696533)* ***11.10*** *Landmarks (T)* (1812484) **11.30** English File (4945) **12.00** Scene (T) (61378)
12.30pm Working Lunch (81620)
1.00 The Little Polar Bear (r) (62740674) **1.05** *Pingu (r) (63190115)*
1.10 The Art and Antiques Hour Restoring antique fans, painting with gouache and using batik to produce inventive textiles (6637736) **2.10** Going, Going, Gone (96446303) **2.35** The Really Useful Show (3642823) **2.40** News (3649736) **2.45** The Richard Dimbleby Lecture (r) (T) (7306465) **3.25** News (8244842) **3.30** The Village (r) (8613571) **3.55** The Really Useful Show (8464736) **4.00** Ready, Steady, Cook (668) **4.30** Through the Keyhole (1052668) **4.55** Esther: Kidnapped (9892823) **5.30** Today's the Day (804)
6.00 The Simpsons Homer is shamed by his failure to score on a test from the National Fatherhood Institute (T) (606397)
6.25 Star Trek (r) (T) (179620)
7.15 Electric Circus (494610)
7.30 Top Gear Motorsport The Vauxhall Vectra touring-car series one year on; the Caterham Scholarship for F1 drivers; the final round of British Rallycross (281)

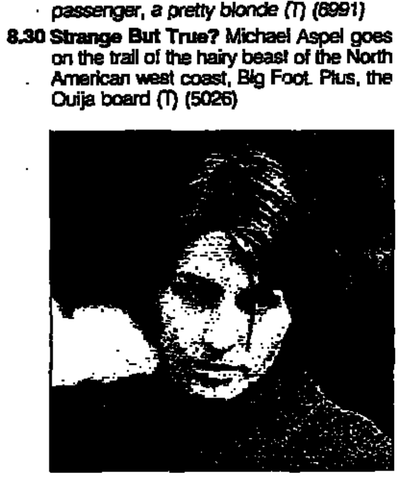


Presenter Patrick Wright (8pm)

8.00 One Foot in Broadcasting House A guided tour of Broadcasting House (T) (9465)
8.30 Ground Force The team transforms a lumpy garden into a racetrack for radio-controlled cars. Last in series (T) (1200)
9.00 Red Dwarf Last in series (T) (8692)
9.30 Shooting Stars Last in series (T) (19264)
10.00 Have I Got News for You (62007)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (921262)
11.15 VR 5 (906113)
12.00 The Raggedy Man (1981) Second World War romance, with Sissy Spacek as a divorcée whose struggle to raise her young sons is disrupted by the arrival of a mysterious sailor. Directed by Jack Fisk (T) (36885)
1.30am The Phoenix City Story (1955, b/w) Crime melodrama with Richard Kiley as a crusading attorney (T) (5855408)
2.55 Weather (6766446)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4341484)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (5874649)
9.55 Regional News (6391378)
10.00 The Time, the Place (86262)
10.30 This Morning (T) (48660823)
12.20pm Regional News (6562649)
12.30 News (T) and weather (2684587)
12.55 WALES: Dogs With Dunbar (2596378)
12.55 Moneyspinners (T) (2596378) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (80349561) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (5938804)
2.50 WALES: The Pulse (T) (T) (8937939)
2.50 Yan Can Cook — The Best of China (r) (8937939)
3.20 News (T) (8249397)
3.25 Regional News (8248668)
3.30 Jays' World (3236216) **3.40** Titch (1452668) **3.50** Oscar and Friends (1441552) **4.00** Roger and the Rottentrolls (T) (9201262) **4.15** The Best of Hey Arnold!(T) (6363674) **4.40** Fun House (T) (9109397)
5.10 A Country Practice (9190571)
5.40 **News** *(T) and weather (859026)*
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (693823)
6.25 Regional Weather (5779804)
6.30 Regional News (T) (823)
7.00 Bruce's Price is Right (T) (5741)
7.30 Coronation Street Will disaster strike at Fiona and Alan's wedding? (T) (197)
8.00 The Bill: Last Fare When a mini-cab driver is stabbed during a robbery, Beech is anxious for the well-being of his last *passenger, a pretty blonde (T) (6991)*
8.30 Strange But True? Michael Aspel goes on the trail of the hairy beast of the North American west coast, Big Foot. Plus, the Ouija board (T) (5026)



Helen Baxendale (9.00pm)

9.00 P.D. James: An Unsuitable Job for a Woman Cordelia's investigation into the death of a Cambridge University student reaches its conclusion (T) (4620)
10.00 News (T) and weather (59533)
10.30 Regional News and weather (312620)
10.40 Jagged Edge (1985) Jeff Bridges, Glenn Close and Peter Coyote star in this gripping courtroom thriller about a wealthy publishing magnate accused of murdering his wife. Directed by Richard Marquand (T) (34184649)
12.40 The Paul Ross Show (348359)
2.15 Lena's Holiday (1990) with Felicity *Waterman and Chris Lemmon. Comic* thriller about a woman who travels from East Germany to America to visit the home of her idol, James Dean. Directed by Michael Keusch (462750)
3.55 Movie Club (r) (56900021)
4.25 Sound Bites (40843427)
4.40 Coach (38000224)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (88840)
5.30 News (73137)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.54pm Air Watch (19333281)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2596378)
2.50-3.20 Our House (6937939)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9190571)
5.59-6.00 Air Watch (317991)
6.25-7.00 Central News (381787)
10.40 Central Weekend Live (6810674)
12.10am Campus Cops (1384779)
2.10 The LADS (3381717)
2.40 Box Office America (5764822)
3.10 Baywatch (5116156)
3.55 **Helter Skelter** *(7766717)*
4.45 Central Jobfinder '97 (8564750)
5.20 Asian Eye (9532392)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6562649)
12.55 Home and Away (2596378)
1.25 Spill the Beans (79682910)
1.55 **Westcountry Update** *(97024736)*
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (2275736)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9190571)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (93465)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (2596378)
1.50 Look and Cook (97025465)
2.20-3.20 **Highway to Heaven** *(1266620)*
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9190571)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (93465)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (336200)
10.45 Roy and HG's Bug House (784842)
11.45 Highlander (612262)
5.00am Freescreen (88840)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6574484)
12.55-1.25 The Making of Peak Practice (2596378)
1.50 A Splash of Colour. Painting watercolours made simple with Hazel Soan (97025465)
2.20-3.20 Highway to Heaven (1266620)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9190571)
6.23 Anglia Weather (570533)
6.25-7.00 **Anglia News** *(381787)*
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (728804)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (336200)
10.45 Roy and HG's Bug House (412939)
11.40 Hollywood's Greatest Stunts (362755)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (20194) **9.00 Ysgolion** (351281) **11.30 Scrimpers** (6113) **12.00 Sesame Street** (52674) **12.30pm Ricki Lake** *(89216)* ***1.00 Slot Meithrin*** (73010610) **1.15 Slot Synladau Sali** (78060115) **1.30 Exposed** (84680736) **1.45 Film: The Agony and the Ecstasy** (24618007) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (736) **4.30 The Living Sea** (620) **5.00 5 Pump** (5649) **5.30 Countdown** *(200)* ***6.00 Newyddion*** *(345705)* **6.10 Heno** (181465) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (714200) **7.25 Y Sioe Gelf** (727736) **8.00 Cefn Gwlad** (4533) **8.30 Newyddion** (3668) **9.00 Rhwng Duw a Dyn** (2262) **10.00 Brookside** (333303) **10.35 Friends** (935674) **11.05 Rory Bremner — Who Else?** (252604) **11.45 Crapston Villas** (289113) **12.00 TFI Friday** (9015514) **1.05am Film: Bullshot** (286446) **2.40 Film: You Can't Have Everything** (124088)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (25736) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (20194)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits (5862804) **9.25** Schools at Work (1243397) **9.30** Eureka! (T) (4784465) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (7014129) **10.02** Lost Animals (4879991) **10.10** TVM (T) (1173045) **10.25** Caraidean (4016200) **10.40** Top! (2798945) **11.00** Scotscapes (3604824) **11.15** Stage One (T) (2694465)
11.30 Scrimpers (r) (T) (6113) **12.00** Sesame Street (52674) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (48282) **1.30** Gardens without Borders (r) (84680736)
1.45 Johnny O'Clock (1947, b/w) starring Dick Powell and Lee J. Cobb. A drama about a New York casino owner suspected of murdering a crooked cop. Directed by Robert Rossen (74023668)
3.30 Dan Pearson: Routes Around the World (r) (T) (129) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (736) **4.30** Countdown (T) (1047736) **4.55** Ricki Lake (T) (9887991) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (200)
6.00 TFI Friday The guests include Dermot Morgan from *Father Ted* (91007)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (471910)
7.55 The Political Slot (498910)
8.00 Dan Pearson: Routes Around the World While in Washington, Dan meets landscape artists and environmentalists who are incorporating elements of the American prairie into their gardens (5/6) (T) (4533)
8.30 Brookside Jacqui makes a decision concerning her future. Julia considers learning to drive (T) (3668)
9.00 Friends: The One with the Tiny T-Shirt Ross is upset when Rachel returns his personal belongings and begins dating the object of his jealousy — Mark (T) (107692)
9.35 Cybill Mother is an embarrassment when she comes to stay (T) (972858)
10.00 Frasier Frasier attempts to produce a live, 1940s-style radio drama (T) (53303)
10.30 Rory Bremner — Who Else? A satirical look at politics (932378)

Surburban animated antics (11.10pm)

11.10 Crapston Villas The return of the animated series set in suburbia (1/10) (T) (228842)
11.25 TFI Friday (r) (694878)
12.30am Bullshot (1983) starring Alan Shearman and Diz White. A Bulldog *Drummond spoof directed by Dick* Clement (315021)
2.05 You Can't Have Everything (1935, b/w) starring Alice Faye and Don Ameche. A lively musical directed by Norman Taurog (213311)
3.50 Going Home (r) (43203311)
4.15 The North Stand (r) (54283682)
4.35 Flava (93973866)
5.00 Captain Butler (6842773)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on *transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite.* **Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will** be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (2816465)
7.30 Milkshake (4579007) **7.35** USA High (6043858) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (9841543)
8.30 WideWorld: A Migrant''s Heart *A documentary series exploring why* people emigrate (1/10) (9931244)
9.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine (2851910) **10.00** Exclusive (8958262) **10.30** Treasure Islands: Forests of Gondwana (r) (T) (6891228)
11.00 Leeza Chat show (7686216) **11.50** Double Espresso (94860216) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6691020) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (8700649)
1.00 5 News Update (29745295) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (3582823) **2.00** 5's Company (8550991)
3.30 To Sir, with Love (1967) starring Sidney Poitier, Judy Geeson and Lulu. A drama about a black teacher working in a tough London comprehensive. Directed by James Clavell (2810281)
5.30 Whittle (T) (3947571)
6.00 100 Per Cent (3944484)
6.30 Family Affairs Holly and Susie become Maria's new business partners (T) (3935736)
7.00 Name That Tune Music quiz chaired by Jools Holland (5526910)
7.30 Exclusive (3924620)
8.00 Jenny Eclair Squats Comedy (5615858)
8.30 5 News (T) (5521465)

Sam Neill and Meryl Streep (9.00pm)

9.00 A Cry in the Dark (1988) Meryl Streep *and Sam Neill star in this fact-based* drama about a family whose baby disappears while they are visiting Ayers Rock. Directed by Fred Schepisi (T) (31839281)
11.15 La Femme Nikita Adventures of a lethal female special agent (6092084)
12.10am I Posed for Playboy (1991) with Lynda Carter as a bored businesswoman who decides to bare all for the celebrated magazine. Stephen Stafford directs (1594156)
2.00 Malarek (1988) with Elias Koteas as a *Montreal journalist who crusades against* the abuse meted out in the city's teenage detention centre. Directed by Roger Cardinal (4531717)
3.50 **Liberace** (1988) A biopic of the flamboyant entertainer, with Andrew Robinson, directed by Billy Hale (9237934)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2849175)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable ***channels, see Vision,*** **published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (742804) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (43787) **10.00** Another World (61485) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (54129) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (20587) **1.00pm** Geraldo (33007) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (30007) **3.00** Jenny Jones (33533) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (52668) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (9820) **6.00** Showbiz Weekly (5910) **6.30** Married...with Children (6262) **7.00** Simpsons (7649) **7.30** Real TV (9574) **8.00** Highlander: The Series (53620) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (85484) **10.00** Extra Time (19339) **10.30** Stand & Deliver (91587) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (62184) **12.00** Late Show (57798) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (17243) **2.00** Long Play (5606137)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour. 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Family Plot (1976) (19823) **8.00 Memories of Me (1988)** *(74742620)* ***8.45*** **Danger Route (1968)** (25443652) **11.30 The Beniker Gang (1985)** (87697200) **1.15pm Death Car on the Freeway (1980)** (98245216) **3.00 Putnsturl (1970)** (47620) **5.00 The Beniker Gang (1985)** (17571) **7.00 The Road to Galveston (1996)** (68378) **9.05 Up Close and Personal (1996)** (95731484) **11.10 The Movie Show** (421264) **11.45 Night Eyes Four (1996)** (196945) **1.30am Up Close and Personal (1996)** (49770865) **3.35 Forget Paris (1995)** (98791934)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Dark Waters (1944) (17465) **8.00 My Uncle: The Alien (1996)** (25129) **10.00 Blockade (1938)** (30810) **12.00 King Richard and the Crusaders (1954)** (35552) **2.00pm Scudda Hoo! Scudda Hay! (1948)** (77465) **4.00 My Uncle: The Alien (1996)** (2194) **6.00 Rolling Thunder (1994)** (83216) **8.00 The Tomorrow Man (1996)** (85874) **10.00 Leaving Las Vegas (1995)** (713216) **11.55 Kiss of Death (1995)** (295741) **1.40am Black Scorpion (1995)** (142798) **3.15 Circle of Friends (1995)** (774885) **5.05 Aladdin and His Magic Lamp (1969)** (5851953)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm North to Alaska (1960) (1370397) **6.00 Anzio (1968)** (2854736) **8.00 Jaws: The Revenge (1987)** (2859281) **10.00 Darkman (1990)** (5033484) **11.40 Parents (1989)** (3543552) **1.05am The Victors (1963)** (39772885) **3.35 The Fabulous Adventures of Baron Munchausen (1978)** (27783494) **4.50** Close

TNT

8.00pm WCW Nitro (89608465) **9.00 Logan's Run (1976)** (89601552) **11.00 Point Blank (1967)** (84816200) **1.00am Brass Target (1978)** (84674224) **3.00 The Safecracker (1958)** (31121243)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (97858) **7.30** Wrestling (43649) **8.30** Sports Centre (42020) **9.00** Racing News (28200) **9.30** Aerobics (31262) **10.00** Spanish Primera Liga (51026) **12.00** Aerobics (15736) **12.30pm** Ringside (38804) **1.30** Offshore Powerboats (41649) **2.00** Watersports World (78281) **3.00** Sports Action (8552) **3.30** Sports Unlimited (74194) **4.30** The Rugby Club (13939) **6.00** Sports Centre (50397) **7.00** Trans World Sport (27484) **8.00** NBA: Chicago v Orlando (55020) **10.00** Sports Centre (26755) **11.00** Hold the Back Page (24638) **12.00** Sports Centre (88682) **1.00am** Wrestling (16040) **3.00** World Sports Special (86311) **3.30** Extreme Sports (53514) **4.00** Hold the Back Page (50205) **5.00** Sports Centre (70308)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (3369133) **7.30** Sports Centre (5365718) **8.00** Racing News (8245007) **8.30** Tight Lines (9619129) **9.30** Football League Review (7588197) **10.00** *The Rugby Club (7586020)* **11.30** Powerboats: Formula One (7781378) **12.00** Cricket: Australia v New Zealand (4529200) **2.00pm** Golf: Sarazen World Open (2688842) **4.00** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (9024281) **4.30** World Sport Special (9020465) **5.00** Futbol Mundial (2897303) ***5.30*** *Extreme Sport (9117945)* **6.00** Powerboats: Formula One (9114858) **6.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (9025810) **7.00** Manchester City v Huddersfield Town — Live (2447026) **10.00** Golf: Sarazen World Open (7784465) **12.00** Cricket: Australia v New Zealand — Live (8012798) **2.00am** *Second Innings (6883791)* **2.30** Cricket: Australia v New Zealand — Live (5868750)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Trans World Sport (62055281) **1.00** Tight Lines (62144129) **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (84606823) **3.30** Best and Worst (55208842) **4.00** Ringside (84512484) **5.00** Trans World Sport (30927026) **6.00** Sports Action (55204026) **6.30** High 5 (55295378) **7.00** NHL: Powerweek (89797303) **8.00** Cricket: Australia v New Zealand (89611939) **10.00** Wrestling (84592620) **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Sailing (98533) **8.00** Showjumping (14823) **9.00** Motors Magazine (42339) **10.00** Football: European Cups (114587) **12.30pm** Tennis: Kremlin Cup — Live (84064) **2.30** Football: European Cups (871755) **5.30** Tennis: Stockholm ATP Tournament — Live (30129) **7.00** British Touring Car Championship (12552) **8.00** Tractor Pulling (21200) **9.00** Supercross World Championship — Live (58277) **11.00** Jump the Bus! Season Review (91674) **12.00** Sumo (58888) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge (9096741) **7.35** Neighbours (8690674) **8.00** Crossroads (3392262) **8.25** EastEnders (1796939) **9.00** The Bill (8239026) **9.30** Howards' Way (8269484) **10.00** Bless This House (8584842) **10.30** The Sullivans (8228910) **11.00** Boon (4501216) **12.00** Crossroads (14000842) **12.25pm** Neighbours (14183129) **12.55** EastEnders (1382939) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi (3709674) **2.10** Keeping Up Appearances (7182026) **2.50** Are You Being Served? (2843849) **3.30** The Bill (7142262) **4.00** Juliet Bravo (78105007) **5.05** EastEnders (6921736) **5.40** Bob's Full House (7832858) **6.25** That's Showbusiness (6598262) **7.00** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (4833755) **7.45** Brush Strokes (4783674) ***8.20*** *Keeping Up Appearances (1024026)* **9.00** The Bill (1939991) **9.30** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (25110007) **10.35** Men Behaving Badly (4851754) **11.10** The Best of the Old Grey Whistle Test (4794465) **11.45** Rock Goes to College (2341804) **12.30am** Live at Jongleurs (5770885) **1.00** Miami Vice (7863158) ***1.55*** *Shopping (92769205)*

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (6716838) **7.00** Coronation St (8587465) **7.30** Families (8599200) **8.00** Surprise Surprise (8504842) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3295007) **10.00** The Professionals (8595484) **11.00** Hart to Hart [illegible]

Romance blossoms for Pfeiffer and Redford (Sky Screen 1, 9.05pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

[illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

[illegible]

TCC

[illegible] **7.30** Dennis the Menace (89543) **8.00** Batman (47303) **8.30** Bots Master (46674) **9.00** Art Attack (64026) **9.30** Earthworm Jim (73216) **10.00** Gravedale High (72620) **10.30** Flash Gordon (53910) **11.00** Iznogoud (18216) **11.30** Gigantor (19945) **12.00** Gravedale High (44262) **12.30pm** Bots Master (71804) **1.00** Batman (28397) **1.30** Eek (76303) **2.00** Spirou (8571) **2.30** Flash Gordon (8281) **3.00** Sonic (2378) **3.30** Earthworm Jim (8886) **4.00** Dennis the *Menace (9533)* ***4.30*** *Art Attack (1945)*

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week.**

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (39465) **6.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (84842) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (15200) **7.30** Rugrats (74197) **8.00** Doug (92561) **8.30** Neverending Story (42002) **9.00** CBBC (48113) **10.00** Wimzie's House (75194) **10.30** Babar (22026) **11.00** Magic School Bus (74804) **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas (75533) **12.00** Paddington Bear etc (13378) **12.30pm** Little Red Tractor etc (33620) **1.00** Dr Seuss (14571) **1.30** Little Bear Stories (32991) **2.00** Animal Show (8587) **2.30** CBBC (2668) **3.00** CBBC (4194) **3.30** Rocko/Doug (7113) **4.00** Angry Beavers (6620) **4.30** Rugrats (2604) **5.00** Sister Sister (6939) **5.30** Kenan and Kel (6484) **6.00** Sabrina (3397) **6.30** Moesha (4649) **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing (8317656) **12.30** *Ready or Not (9265668)* **1.00** Madison (4427200) **1.30** California Dreams (9264939) **2.00** Saved by the Bell (6401007) **2.30** Swan's Crossing (7165113) **3.00** No Naked Flame (6413842) **3.30** Ready or Not (7240858) **4.00** Saved by the Bell (7156465) **4.30** USA High (7152649) **5.00** Hangtime (6598587) **5.30** California Dreams (7249129) **6.00** Blast (7166842) **6.30** Madison (7157194) **7.00** Hangtime (6405823) **7.30** USA High (7153378) **8.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team *(6876649)* ***9.00*** Tour of Duty (8689113) **10.00** The Red Shoe Diaries (9138674) **10.45** **FILM: Firehead (1990)** (4647216) **12.45am** Tour of Duty (6731214) **1.45** The Red Shoe Diaries (16339175) **2.50** **FILM: TNT Jackson (1974)** (5375758) **4.30** The Maxx (8403779) **5.00** *The A-Team (5398885)*

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (2303) **7.30** Roseanne (3533) **8.00** Ellen (5823) **8.30** *Cybill (7858)* ***9.00*** *Cheers (94668)* ***9.30*** *Taxi (53484)* **10.00** Monty Python's Flying Circus (14007) **10.30** The Kenny Everett Show (23755) **11.00** Paramount Presents (99113) **11.30** Ellen (71378) **12.00** Roseanne (54040) **12.30am** Nightstand (15663) **1.00** Soap (69507) **1.30** Taxi (10866) **2.00** *Paramount Presents (58069)* **2.30** Grace Under Fire (37576) **3.00** Cybill (84953) **3.30** The Kenny Everett Show (51156) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (4755939) **9.00** **FILM: House of the Long Shadows (1983)** *(4758026)* ***11.00*** *Friday the 13th (2068939)* **12.00** Sightings (6804682) **1.00am** Twilight Zone (6898392) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3273232) **2.00** Dark Shadows (1287224) **2.30** New Hitchcock (1206359) **3.00** Friday the 13th (7901663) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Simply Painting (8237668) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (9267026) **10.00** Great Gardening Plot (6582484) **10.30** New Yankee Workshop (8226552) **11.00** Rex Hunt (1957397) **11.30** Hometime (1958026) **12.00** The Close Guide (8217804) **12.30pm** This Old House (9261842) **1.00** Just for Starters (4503674) **1.30** Our House (9260113) **2.00** Furniture to Go (6407281) **2.30** Homemaker (7241587) **3.00** Two's Country (6599216) **3.30** This Old House (7140804) **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Diceman (7169939) **4.30** Driving Passions (7158823) **5.00** Ancient Warriors (6498533) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (7245303) **6.00** Untamed Amazonia (9246533) **7.00** World of Strange Powers (6418397) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (7159552) **8.00** Ultimate Guide (6672823) **9.00** Raging Planet (6765587) **10.00** Raging Planet (6768674) **11.00** Firepower 2000 (4417823) **12.00** Fightline (3005953) **12.30am** Driving Passions (5779427) **1.00** Wonders of Weather (6428088) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (2109040) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Wild Willy (7568842) **7.30** Okavengo Diary (5222620) **8.00** Alayeska (3845668) **9.00** Wildlife Warriors (3825804) **10.00** *Tasman Jewel (3828391)* **11.00** Costa Rica: Bridge Between Continents (4471623) **12.00** Wild Willy (3603069) **12.30am** Okavengo Diary (2123430)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Great Days of the Century (7877129) **5.00** History Encore (8332587) **7.00** Biography: Josef Stalin (2763587)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour.
5.00pm Cross Wits (7823) **5.30** Say the Word (9397) **6.00** Family Fortunes (9910) **6.30** Catchphrase (8642) **7.15** The $64 000 Question (893804) **8.00** Split Second (486200) **8.30** Move on Up (5842) **9.15** Winner Takes All (187755) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (62571) **11.15** Whittle (167991) **12.00** *Say the Word (92224)* ***12.30am*** *Hart to Hart* (43663) **1.30** The Big Valley (86156) **2.30** Big Brother Jake (86866) **3.00** My Two Dads (22137) **3.30** Where I Live (84066) **4.00** Snowy River: The McGregor Saga (96021) **5.00** Shopping (22885)

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** I Dream of Jeannie **9.30** The Gordon Elliott Show **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.50** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **12.20pm** Why Me? **1.00** Tempestt **1.50** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.30** Cheap Chic **3.00** Live at Three **4.05** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Lucky Ladders **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Hearts Afire **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00** **FILM: Touch of Truth** **11.00** The Spicy Sex Files **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Aap Ki Adalat **8.00** TBA **9.00** Dashi **10.00** Intequam **11.00** Zalke Ka Safar **11.30** Hasratein **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00** FILM **3.30** Ek Nazar **4.00** Amar Kathayen **4.30** Aur Ek Minute **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Kachchi Dhoop **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** ZEE Hit Parade **7.30** Mast Mast Hai Zindagi **8.00** News and Euronews **8.30** Parampara **9.00** FILM **11.30** Sizzlers **12.00** Close

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RACING 47

Injured Singspiel limps out of Breeders' Cup

SPORT

POWERLIFTING 50

British world champion shoulders heavy burden

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7 1997

British No 1 shrugs off virus to reach Stockholm quarter-finals

Rusedski shows no ill effects

By Julian Muscat
Tennis Correspondent

A FUSILLADE of aces enabled Greg Rusedski to join Tim Henman in the last eight of the Stockholm Open yesterday, the Great Britain No 1 defeating Lionel Roux, of France, 6-4, 7-6. Victory over Roux, the world No 71, enabled Rusedski to progress to the quarter-final stages for the eighth time in his past nine tournaments.

Rusedski's triumph was all the more meritorious considering that he had been confined to bed with a stomach virus since his first-round victory on Monday. His participation remained in doubt yesterday morning, although a course of medication, prescribed by Per Bastholt, the ATP Tour trainer, had the desired effect. "He gave me some pills containing aspirin, vitamin C and caffeine," Rusedski said. "It worked well."

Also working well was his thunderous service. Seeded No 2 in Stockholm, Rusedski initiated a sequence of irreproachable service games by hammering eight successive clean aces, permitting Roux no semblance of rhythm on his returns. A solitary break was enough to secure the opening set, in which Rusedski pounded 14 aces past the demoralised Roux.

Results 49

The second set featured no breaks of service but Roux had his chance when poaching a 4-1 lead in the ensuing tie-break. However, the Briton responded by winning six of the next seven points to claim the match after 68 minutes. His tally of aces reached 20 by the close, and he conceded just seven points on service in the entire match.

It was hardly vintage tennis, but Rusedski, who reached the quarter-finals here last year, was satisfied with his form ahead of the ATP Tour world championship in Hanover. "The points were very short but I was pleased with my serve," the world No 5 said. "It was the difference between us. I felt terrible for the last two days but getting back on court is a positive step. The best way to get yourself back in shape is to play more matches. I have the chance to do that here."

Doubtless the hard-court surface in Stockholm, similar to that laid for the world championship next week, influenced Rusedski's decision to turn out yesterday. "I am excited about Hanover and this is all good preparation," he said. "I'm not worried about expending too much energy this week. It gives you confidence to win matches when you are not playing well — and not feeling particularly well."

Rusedski immediately returned to his bed after dispensing with Roux. "I have a tough draw ahead of me," he said, "and I want to be ready." Today he plays Magnus Larsson for a place in the semi-finals. Larsson yesterday defeated his fellow Swede, Thomas Enqvist, the defending champion, 6-1, 6-2.

Henman, the Great Britain No 2, is also engaged today, against Pat Rafter, the US Open champion and No 1 seed. The two have never met, but this represents a good opportunity for Henman. Rafter, from Australia, has not rediscovered the form that saw him triumph over Rusedski at Flushing Meadows in September. He admits that he has struggled over the European indoor season, while Henman needs no reminding that valuable bonus points would come his way for defeating the world No 3.

Rafter is bound to have one eye on the world championship, for which he qualified two months ago. Henman, the world No 17, also recognises that further progress is crucial if he is to improve his world ranking on this, his final Tour outing of 1997.

Victory over Rafter might be enough to lift him one place above Felix Mantilla, a first-round casualty in Moscow this week. Such an outcome would all but ensure Henman a place among the seeds for the Australian Open, the first of the new season's grand-slam events, in January.

One man assured of that privilege is Jonas Bjorkman, the world No 4, who, in beating his compatriot, Thomas Johansson, advanced to a quarter-final meeting today with Karol Kucera. Seeded No 4 and playing on home soil, Bjorkman extended a fine indoor sequence that has seen him climb the rankings in spectacular fashion. He made the semi-finals and final in his last two tournaments, most recently losing to Pete Sampras in four sets in Paris last week.

Rusedski puts maximum effort into trying to control a forehand during his straight-sets victory over Roux. Photograph: Tobias Rostlund

Unhappy players demand to be heard

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

COUNTY players are to be mobilised for a significant protest. An extraordinary general meeting of the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) is being convened to debate the new structure of the domestic game and it may well be a mutinous gathering.

A recent executive meeting of the PCA, involving representatives from each of the 18 counties, expressed "strong reservations" about the three-year plan agreed by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in September.

The players, I understand, are dismayed by the failure of the crusade by Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the ECB chairman, for a two-division county championship, and unhappy that their own views were ignored.

A letter expressing this position has been sent by the PCA to every county and, yesterday, a statement confirmed the intention to hold an EGM on May 11 next year. Though the timing hardly indicates urgency, it was felt that the limited availability of players in the close-season made any earlier date impractical.

The equivalent of a three-line whip is to be imposed on the 400 registered players, emphasising the critical nature of the debate. Senior figures within the PCA have already said that this is a legitimate issue for player militancy.

The feeling among the players that moribund structures are imposed upon them by parochial county chairmen has been growing fast and the frustration of Lord MacLaurin is shared by the shop floor of the game.

In a ballot last summer, a significant majority supported the notion of promotion and relegation within the county championship. David Graveney, the general secretary of the association, believes this majority has now grown. He said: "Two questions were repeated at the executive meeting — why didn't two divisions get through and why were we not asked for our views?

"It may well be that we continue to play under the proposed system for the next three years but unless we register what we feel, silence will be interpreted as acceptance. Everyone will now have a chance to air their views."

United's relief over Irwin injury

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

DENNIS IRWIN, the Manchester United full back, will be out of action for six weeks after the horrific late tackle from Paul Bosvelt, the Feyenoord midfield player, that led to the Ireland defender being taken off on a stretcher near the end of United's victory over the Dutch side in Rotterdam on Wednesday night.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, who was so incensed by the crude challenges endured by his players that he urged them not to swap shirts with their opponents, said yesterday that Irwin had suffered knee ligament damage and may not play again before Christmas. "He is a lucky boy," Ferguson said. "It could have been much worse."

Bosvelt's challenge, which caught Irwin just below the knee, came against a background of Dutch ill-feeling over what they felt were spiteful challenges from David Beckham in the first meeting a fortnight ago. At first it appeared to have shattered the defender's left leg and United officials clearly feared the injury was worse than has transpired.

Uefa, the European governing body, is awaiting the report of the referee, Sandor Puhl, who booked Bosvelt for the challenge, before they decide whether to take the matter any further. However, they would need to receive a complaint from United to follow that course and preliminary indications were that none would be forthcoming.

They may also want to study reports of the clash between Ferguson and Geert Meijer, his opposite number. Meijer suggested that United had got what was coming to them after the first match. Ferguson said that kind of thinking was "insane".

With one player lost, United were also rumoured to be attempting to bring another in yesterday. Ferguson is reported to have lodged an inquiry about Andriy Shevchenko, the Dynamo Kiev forward, who scored a hat-trick against Barcelona on Wednesday night. Tommy Langley, the former Chelsea player, who is Shevchenko's agent, said he would be "great value" at £12 million.

Cole on fire, page 48

The Times invests in football's future by backing Youth Cup

By John Goodbody

THE FA Youth Cup, in which players such as George Best, Paul Gascoigne, Ryan Giggs and David Beckham first attracted national attention, is to be sponsored by *The Times*. All the FA Carling Premiership and Nationwide League clubs have teams among the 304 taking part in the competition, which will be sponsored for the first time in its 46 seasons.

John Bryant, the deputy editor of *The Times*, said yesterday that the sponsorship demonstrated the newspaper's "commitment to football and youth sport. This is a very important tournament and one in which the top players of the future have the chance to taste cup football on the Premiership and League grounds."

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, described the announcement as "a special occasion, the first sponsorship of the competition by the most famous newspaper in the world".

Bryant added that the most powerful indication of the tournament's importance was the presence at the sponsorship launch yesterday of Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, who described the competition as a "breeding ground".

He said that his job included "earmarking" future stars of 15 and 16 years old. Hoddle, like so many other full internationals, himself took part in the FA Youth Cup. He said that he fondly remembers scoring his first hat-trick against Burnley at White Hart Lane in the 1975-76 competition. "Although I was a bit fortunate with two of the goals, I hit a real screamer from the edge of the box," Hoddle recalled.

He said that the particular benefit of the competition was that, after playing on pitches before just a handful of spectators, suddenly youngsters were appearing on League grounds. "There is a crowd to put you under pressure," Hoddle said. "This gives you a mental strength and tests your temperament."

When leading clubs are involved, finals can attract crowds of 30,000.

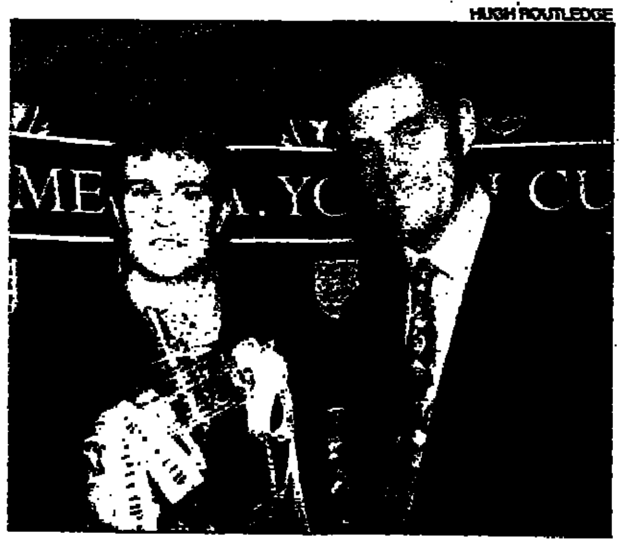
Hoddle, together with Bryant, yesterday made the draw for the second round of this season's tournament, when England's 30 leading clubs enter the fray. Hoddle said that when he was Chelsea manager, he was not concerned about the position of the youth team in their league because players principally were at clubs to learn how to play. However, the aim for the FA Youth Cup was to "go through and to win it. Kids are naturally competitive."

The competition, started in 1952, was monopolised in its first five years by the "Busby Babes" of Manchester United. Best was in the team that won the 1964 final while Gascoigne inspired Newcastle United to victory in 1985.

In 1992 Manchester United won the trophy again, with a team that included Giggs, Beckham and Nicky Butt. The holders are Leeds United, who beat Crystal Palace 3-1 last May. Eddie Gray, the Leeds youth team coach last season, who himself played in the tournament in the 1960s, said: "Usually, the best players in youth teams will flourish in the first team."

Leeds, who yesterday were drawn to play Oldham Athletic in the second round, still have eight players available from the successful team of last season. These include Stephen McPhail, 17, a midfield player, who said: "The tournament got better and better last season. The final was tremendous, with a huge crowd, and clearly we have a good chance again."

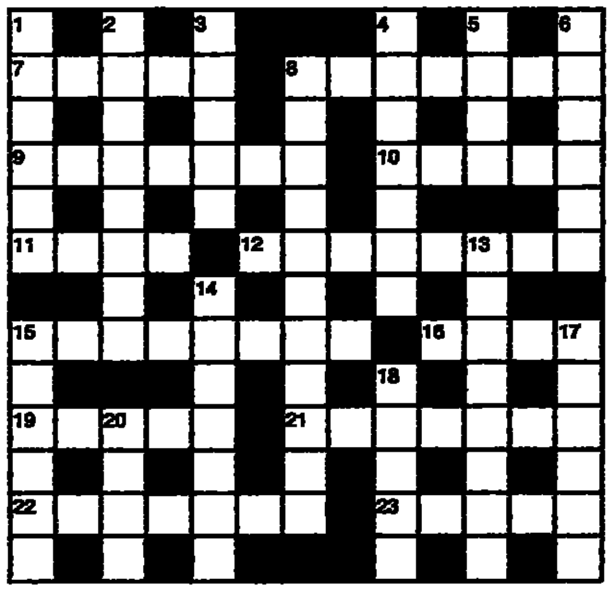
HUGH ROUTLEDGE



McPhail and Hoddle at the announcement yesterday

Draw, page 48

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1245

ACROSS

7 Decorate (5)
8 Window-fitter (7)
9 Keep trying (7)
10 Gurkha knife (5)
11 Platform (4)
12 Wound fasteners: the amused in them (8)
15 Shabby from handling (3-5)
16 Stern, severe, sinister (4)
19 Wandering tribesman (5)
21 Permitted (7)
22 Garden timepiece (7)
23 Tend (the sick) (5)

DOWN

1 Knocked lightly; exploited (6)
2 Billboard; stocking (8)
3 Asian republic; sort of ink, rubber (5)
4 Squash-like game (7)
5 Decline; kitchen fixture (4)
6 Personal characteristics (6)
8 Be ruined: *to hog wallet* (*anag.*) (2,2,3,4)
13 Computer equipment (8)
14 (Drunkenly) sentimental (7)
15 European; type of pastry (6)
17 More crazy; plant, dye (6)
18 Hold tight (5)
20 Meal-choice list (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1244

ACROSS: 2 Precious 6 Louvre 8 Divert 9 Provide 10 Irate 12 Convalesce 16 Cwm Rhondda 18 Lager 20 Oblique 21 Guitar 22 Rotate 23 Elephant

DOWN: 1 Bourbon 2 Pendulum 3 Critic 4 Omega 5 Sitter 7 Viva voce 11 Re-enlist 13 Schubert 14 Adjusts 15 Plague 17 Wreath 19 Grime

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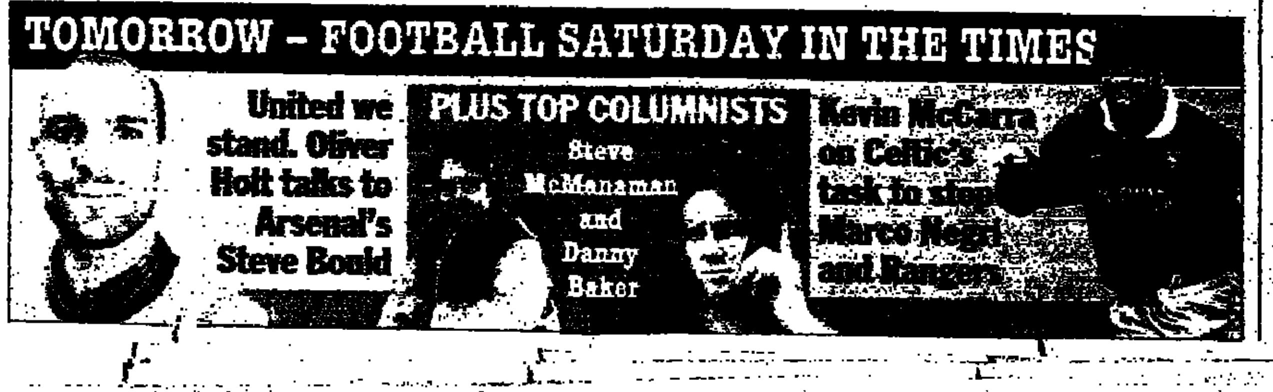

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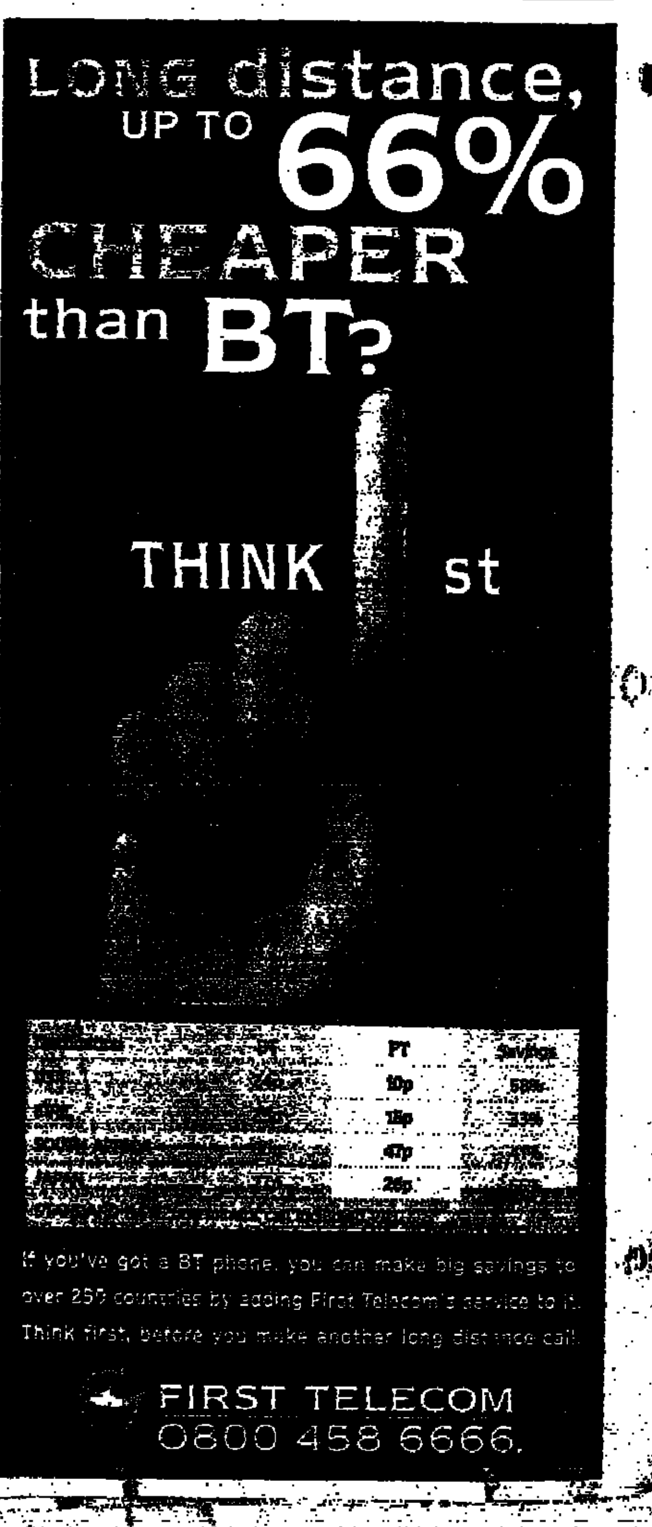

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